

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University  
**Aggie Digital Collections and Scholarship**

---

NCAT Student Newspapers

Digital Collections

---

8-29-2007

## **The Register, 2007-08-29**

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digital.library.ncat.edu/atregister>

---

### **Recommended Citation**

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, "The Register, 2007-08-29" (2007). *NCAT Student Newspapers*. 1384.

<https://digital.library.ncat.edu/atregister/1384>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Digital Collections at Aggie Digital Collections and Scholarship. It has been accepted for inclusion in NCAT Student Newspapers by an authorized administrator of Aggie Digital Collections and Scholarship. For more information, please contact [iyanna@ncat.edu](mailto:iyanna@ncat.edu).





LOVE HIM OR HATE HIM  
**SOULJA BOY** IS STILL  
CLIMBING THE CHARTS

WHO'S VISITING STEVE  
RUSH AND THE  
AGGIES THIS SEASON?



# THE A&T REGISTER

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2007

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF NORTH CAROLINA A&amp;T STATE UNIVERSITY

VOLUME LXXXI, NO. 2

www.ncatregister.com

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND AUDIT REPORT (THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2006)

## TROUBLED WATERS

Audit points to fraud and mismanaged funds under former Chancellor Renick

MORE ON PAGE 2

## NEWS



### ATTORNEY GENERAL GONZALES RESIGNS

Embattled Attorney General Alberto Gonzales resigned from the Bush Administration. **PAGE 3**

### WELCOME WEEK COMES TO AN END

A week of activities to introduce freshmen to life in Aggietown wrapped up Friday. **PAGE 2**

## OPINION

### A&T IS BIGGER THAN YOU AND ME

Aggies must realize that they have a responsibility to leave this university better than it was when they got here. **PAGE 5**

## ARTS &amp; LIFE

### DEF POETS DO THEIR THING

Def Poetry alumni and other poets came together in Harrison Auditorium and treated fans to a deep evening. **PAGE 8**

## SPORTS

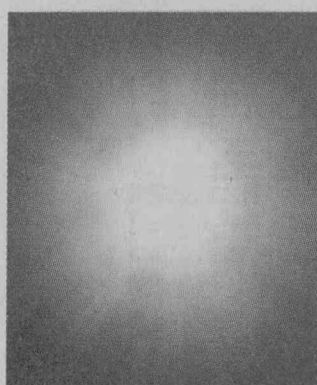
### SUNRISE ON A NEW SEASON

After a winless 2006 the Aggies can't help but improve in 2007 and lots of new faces should help them do just that. **PAGE 9**

## INDEX

Campus News	2
National News	4
Opinion	5
Business	6
Arts & Life	7
Sports	9

## WEATHER



HIGH: 92°F  
LOW: 68°F  
THURSDAY: H: 90°F/ L: 67°F



PHOTO BY SMILEY N. POOL

# HURRICANE KATRINA

## TWO YEARS LATER

By AASIYA TOWNSELL  
NEWS EDITOR

**A**ugust 29, 2005. It has been two years since Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast and decimated the city of New Orleans and Aggies from the city will tell you that conditions in their hometown are still "messed up."

"The Ninth Ward looks like Katrina just hit it yesterday" said Davin Harris, a junior from New Orleans.

Brandon Henry, who is also a junior, explains that homes on the east bank of New Orleans had either been demolished or boarded up. Some houses would still not have electricity, natural gas or even running water. People were sent to the trailer homes that are described to be as big as a jail cell where the utilities sometimes would not even work like they were constructed to. Promises of availability of televisions also never happened.

On the other hand, areas where businesses thrive along with tourism sites were rebuilt.

Crime rate has also been a

concern for both students that are from New Orleans, which has been substantially higher after Katrina. One would ask why and the two New Orleanians would simply reply that the people, mainly poor, are stressed out and frustrated with the conditions after the storm.

OnlineNewsHour.com reports have shown that New Orleans had one of the highest murder rates in the country even with less than half of its returning population.

A large percentage of the victims are teenagers with unsolved murder cases.

Statistics also show that New Orleans murder rate is 7.54 times higher than the national average, however, the property crime rate is significantly higher than violent crimes.

Local corner stores and grocery stores are still not up on the East-side of town, also known as the poorer section some would say. The nearest amenities are claimed to be in Lakeside, according to Henry, that can also be considered as the "White Side" of town.

"It's a 15-minute drive to go

grocery shopping and it's a 20-minute drive to get to the mall," said Henry.

He also says that it takes two bus trips to get there and could be an inconvenience for those who do not have a car.

This is how things can be considered "messed up" to Henry and Harris, however, for these two Aggies, there has been an upside to their outcome after the storm.

Despite the poor being sent to the Superdome as the last resort for shelter, evacuation was demanded upon all the residents in New Orleans.

"I've had a series of good blessings," says Henry. His family was fortunate to have friends in Houston with a free apartment waiting for their arrival.

Harris also stayed with family outside of New Orleans and was described to be "one of the lucky ones".

When it came to returning back to New Orleans the two had to transfer schools because of the conditions the schools were left in after Katrina.

SEE HURRICANE ON PAGE 2



PHOTO BY KHAMPHA BOUAPHANH

**HURRICANE KATRINA** Two years ago, Hurricane Katrina pummeled the Gulf Coast and left many of the surrounding areas and its citizens in a state of utter destruction. Even today, the rebuilding process is ongoing.



THE A&T  
REGISTER

Box E-25, 1601 E. Market Street  
Greensboro, NC 27411  
www.ncatregister.com

## MICHAEL MCCRAY

Interim Editor in Chief  
mike@ncatregister.com

## KERI MILLER

Business Manager  
keri@ncatregister.com

## NYKKIA OUTLAW

Business Manager  
nykkia@ncatregister.com

## EMILY HARRIS

Faculty Advisor  
emily@ncatregister.com

## CONTACT INFORMATION

## Newsroom

Office hours: Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
NCB 328  
(336) 334-7700

## News Tips

news@ncatregister.com

## Corrections

corrections@ncatregister.com

## Letters to the Editor

editor@ncatregister.com

## Business

business@ncatregister.com

## Photography Department

photo@ncatregister.com

## Arts &amp; Life Section

arts@ncatregister.com

## Editorial Page

editorial@ncatregister.com

## Sports Section

sports@ncatregister.com

## EDITORIAL STAFF

Malcolm S. Eustache

Sports Editor  
malcolm@ncatregister.com

Aasiya Townsell

News Editor  
aasiya@ncatregister.com

Tia Norrington

Arts & Life Editor  
tandrea@ncatregister.com

Candace L. Hackney

Associate Arts & Life Editor  
candace@ncatregister.com

Leroy Mikell

Photo Editor  
leroy@ncatregister.com

LaShawn Parker

Managing Editor  
lashawn@ncatregister.com

Torell Taylor

Online Editor  
torell@ncatregister.com

Jeuron Dove

Copy Desk Chief  
jeuron@ncatregister.com

Rob Coleman

Designer  
rob@ncatregister.com

The A&T Register is published every Wednesday during the fall and spring semesters by students at North Carolina A&T State University. One copy is available free of charge to all readers. Additional copies may be picked up the newsroom for 50¢.

The A&T Register circulates 5,000 copies weekly on campus and is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press and the Black College Communication Association.



## Audit the latest black eye

By MICHAEL J. MCCRAY  
INTERIM EDITOR IN CHIEF

Two steps forward and one step back.

For every positive headline A&T managed to produce over the summer, like developing a process for producing allergen-free peanuts and welcoming new chancellor Stanley Battle, there was also a bigger, negative headline pushing it off the front page.

Whether it was the sexual harassment suit filed against the university by the Justice Department or the most recent black eye, a recently released audit that strongly suggests financial mismanagement by the university under former chancellor James Renick, who is now the senior vice president of the American Council on Education in Washington, D.C.

Details from the audit trickled out during the summer but it was when all the details were released that the magnitude of the financial mismanagement became known.

The report indicated instances of fraud within the Office of Naval Research Grant, where a program manager was pointed out for awarding stipends over \$66,000 to her husband (the highest stipend payout prior was less than \$23,000) and approving travel expenses over the \$1,500 student travel budget.

The woman, who was unnamed in the audit and fired in

September 2006, was also indicated for violation of the State nepotism policy by hiring her daughter as a student worker and unreasonable and unnecessary travel expenses where she spent 41 nights in hotels during that 2005-06 year at the program's expense, costing an average over \$328 per night, worst of which came when the manager and her husband spent nearly \$370 on restaurant and room service charges during a two-day symposium.

That same program also made payments for tuition that exceeded the actual tuition costs, payments for books and supplies that should have been covered by the base stipend and gave reimbursements to students for computers and health insurance costs. Consultants questioned approximately \$500,000 of expenditures by the program.

Misappropriated funds from the Information Technology and Telecommunications Division have been known for a while but were reported by the former Vice Chancellor, who was no longer an employee at A&T. That report cited \$87,000 misappropriated from May 2004 through February 2006.

The funds, most of which came from rebates from the purchase of computer equipment, were directed to a discretionary account held by the North Carolina A&T Foundation. The former Vice Chancellor was accused of approving purchases

that had no business purpose.

The university also lost \$101,000 after an administrative assistant in the Natural Resources and Environment Design Department misused eleven accounts related to the School of Agriculture. The administrative assistant was fired in September 2006 and pleaded guilty to charges stemming from the misuse of funds for unauthorized financial aid awards, stipends, student employment, travel and purchase of goods.

The buzz throughout the student body circulated around who did what and how much money was involved. They want to know if the persons in the wrong have been punished for their crimes.

The situation has been stressful for A&T's new chancellor Stanley Battle, who has been on the job for less than two months but has already had to handle his share of media storms.

Battle was brought in by UNC system President Erskine Bowles to clean house and no one can expect that to happen overnight but it is safe to say that the individuals involved with the various infractions have all been relieved of their duties.

"I had this conversation with them (The News & Record), we're not going to manage A&T on the front page of their paper," said Battle.

"I heard on TV that it was millions of dollars, it wasn't millions of dollars, it was sig-

nificant amount, don't get me wrong, and there were missteps, no doubt about it, but the progress that's been made is tremendous."

Battle continued, "There is part of the story that's sensationalist and I just think that the story has been told and we know what we have to do. I'm telling you I've got general administration right here and I've got auditors right here, this is all I've been here July 1 this is all I've dealing this."

The main thing Battle tried to drive home was there were major missteps but that is not a reflection of everybody here.

"There were some outstanding people here when I got here and there will be some outstanding people here when I leave... You're talking about mistakes that were made by a few people and you can't use that as a generalization against the whole university."

Battle was admittedly at his breaking point Sunday and brought up a conversation he had with a local person. "Somebody said to me 'Well there is a cloud over campus...' There is no cloud over A&T! There is no cloud over this campus! The students didn't do anything wrong, you have 99-100 percent of the faculty, they didn't do anything wrong."

He continued, "We have some issues that we have to deal with and that's my problem."

*Download the PDF of the*

## HURRICANE

Continued from Page 1

"It was hard transferring my credits over to A&T because of lost records from the hurricane," said Harris, a transfer from the University of New Orleans whose majoring in electronics and computer technology. Henry, a computer engineering major from Tulane University, had also experienced the same kind of trouble.

The up-side to their situation is that both of their families have returned back to New Orleans and have moved into their old homes.

Keeping in touch with friends from back home was also a challenge for them due to them dispersing into other states such as California, Montana and Utah. Harris states that if it wasn't for Facebook he probably would be out of contact with his friends.

With that in mind, families are still scattered in other parts of the country, while others live in an apartment in New Orleans with an eviction notice on-the-way due to new owners planning for renovation of the building.

Now let's go back two years and re-live the category 5 hurricane that broke 53 levee breaches in the levee system protecting the metro area of New Orleans.

People in the poorer communities and people in general who had no place to go were floating around, on top of roofs, trapped in their homes in attics, for days. There were people outside, in the blazing heat, with no electricity, food or water and were patiently waiting for the government to help them.

About 1500 people had died from the storm. The cost of total damage from Katrina alone estimated to be about \$81.2 billion U.S. dollars.

Two years have passed and crime rate goes up, the city is still chaotic and only half of the population has moved back.

The stench of frustration still lurks in the New Orleans air.

## IN FOCUS | LEROY MIKELL



**GRABBING THE BULL BY THE HORNS** Na'Shea English, a sophomore Political Science major from Wilson, N.C. tries hard to stay on top of the mechanical bull ride during the Laurel Street Takeover (which was actually in the Holland Bowl). The mechanical bull was just one of many activities students enjoyed capping off Aggie Welcome Week 2007.

ON THE  
YARD

## WEDNESDAY

SGA Cafe Service  
Williams Cafeteria  
4 p.m., Free (w/ Meal Plan)

## THURSDAY

SGA Street Team  
Interest Meeting  
NCB  
6 p.m., Free

OFF THE  
YARD

## WEDNESDAY

African Drum Circle  
Ten Thousand Villages  
(1603 Battleground Avenue)  
3 p.m. - 4 p.m., Free

## THURSDAY

Karaoke  
The Idiot Box  
(203 S. Elm Street)  
10 p.m., \$5

## FRIDAY

Friday Night Jazz Jam Session  
Cheesecakes by Alex  
(315 S. Elm Street)  
8 p.m., Free

## SATURDAY

Labor Day Sidewalk Sale  
Friendly Center  
(3110 Kathleen Avenue)  
10 a.m. - 9 p.m., Free

## MONDAY

Native New Orleans: A Photo  
Essay of Post-Katrina Life  
The Greenbean Coffee  
(341 and 215 S. Elm Street)  
All Day, Free

## TUESDAY

Maud Gatewood Exhibition  
Weatherspoon Art Museum  
(1000 Spring Garden Street)  
10 a.m., Free





# Attorney General Gonzales latest to resign

By DAVID ESPO  
AP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Alberto Gonzales' resignation Monday after months of draining controversy drew expressions of relief from Republicans and a vow from Democrats to pursue their investigation into fired federal prosecutors.

President Bush, Gonzales' most dogged defender, told reporters he had accepted the resignation reluctantly. "His good name was dragged through the mud for political reasons," Bush said.

The president named Paul Clement, the solicitor general, as a temporary replacement. With less than 18 months remaining in office, there was no indication when Bush would name a successor, or how quickly or easily the Senate might confirm one.

Apart from the president, there were few Republican expressions of regret following the departure of the nation's first Hispanic attorney general, a man once hailed as the embodiment of the American Dream.

"Our country needs a credible, effective attorney general who can work with Congress on critical issues," said Sen. John Sununu of New Hampshire, who last March was the first GOP lawmaker to call on Gon-

zales to step down.

"Alberto Gonzales' resignation will finally allow a new attorney general to take on this task."

Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, added, "Even after all the scrutiny, it doesn't appear that Attorney General Gonzales committed any crimes, but he did make management missteps and didn't handle the spotlight well when they were exposed."

Democrats were less charitable. Under Gonzales and Bush, "the Department of Justice suffered a severe crisis of leadership that allowed our justice system to be corrupted by political influence," said Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., who has presided over the investigation into the firings of eight prosecutors whom Democrats say were axed for political reasons.

Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said the investigation would not end with Gonzales' leaving.

"Congress must get to the bottom of this mess and follow the facts where they lead, into the White House," said the Nevada Democrat.

Gonzales also has struggled in recent months to explain his involvement in a 2004 meeting at the hospital bedside of then-Attorney General John Ashcroft, who had refused to certify the legality of Bush's no-

warrant wiretapping program. Ashcroft was in intensive care at the time.

More broadly, the attorney general's personal credibility has been a casualty of the multiple controversies. So much so that Sen. Arlen Specter, senior GOP member of the Judiciary Committee, told him at a hearing on the prosecutors that his testimony was "significantly if not totally at variance with the facts."

The speculation about a successor began immediately, and included Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff; Asa Hutchinson, former head of the Drug Enforcement Administration; former solicitor general Ted Olson; and Larry Thompson, who was the second-ranking official at the Justice Department in Bush's first term.

Gonzales made a brief appearance before reporters at the Justice Department to announce his resignation. "Even my worst days as attorney general have been better than my father's best days," said the son of migrants.

Gonzales told the Senate Judiciary Committee as recently as July 24 that he had decided to stay in his post despite numerous calls for his resignation.

Several officials said the attorney general called Bush at his ranch last Friday to offer his resignation. Bush did not attempt

to dissuade him but accepted with reluctance, they said. The president then invited Gonzales and his wife to Sunday lunch.

Gonzales was one of the longest-serving members of a group of Texans who came to Washington with Bush more than six years ago at the dawn of a new administration.

Karl Rove, the president's chief political strategist, announced his resignation last week. Presidential counselor Dan Bartlett and Harriet Miers, the former White House counsel who was forced to withdraw her nomination for the Supreme Court, left earlier in the year.

Gonzales, too, was once considered for the high court, but conservatives never warmed to the idea and he was passed over.

His appointment as attorney general more than two years ago marked the latest in a series of increasingly high-profile positions that Bush entrusted him with.

A Harvard-educated lawyer, Gonzales signed on with Bush in the mid 1990s. He served as general counsel and secretary of state when his patron was governor of Texas, then won an appointment to the state Supreme Court.

As counsel, Gonzales helped get Bush excused from jury duty in 1996, which kept him from

having to disclose a drunken driving arrest in Maine in 1976. The episode became public in the final days of the 2000 presidential campaign.

Gonzales was White House counsel during the president's first term, then replaced Ashcroft as attorney general soon after the beginning of the second.

Both jobs gave him key responsibilities in the administration's global war on terror that followed the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

In a legal memo in 2002, he contended that Bush had the right to waive anti-torture laws and international treaties that protected prisoners of war.

The memo said some of the prisoner-of-war protections contained in the Geneva Conventions were "quaint" and that in any event, the treaty did not apply to enemy combatants in the war on terror.

Human rights groups later contended his memo led directly to the abuses exposed in the Abu Ghraib prison scandal in Iraq.

Of greater political concern was the Democratic majority that took office in Congress earlier this year. Leahy soon began investigating the firing of federal prosecutors.

Testifying on April 19 before the Judiciary Committee, Gonzales answered "I don't know"

and "I can't recall" scores of times when asked about events surrounding the firings.

His support among Republicans in Congress, already weak, eroded markedly, then suffered further with word of the bedside meeting in the intensive care unit of George Washington University Hospital three years earlier.

Former Deputy Attorney General James Comey testified that Ashcroft had refused to reauthorize the wiretapping program.

Appearing before the Judiciary Committee, he described a confrontation in which Gonzales, White House counsel at the time, and White House Chief of Staff Andy Card had appealed to Ashcroft to overrule his deputy. The ill Ashcroft refused, saying he had transferred power to Comey.

Comey described the events as "an effort to take advantage of a very sick man who did not have the powers of the attorney general."

Gonzales subsequently denied that the dispute was about the terrorist surveillance program, but his credibility was undercut when FBI Director Robert S. Mueller contradicted him.

Several Democrats called for a perjury investigation, but no further action has been taken.

# Visualizing 10 years after Katrina

## A different New Orleans with the old worries?

By DAVID ESPO  
AP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Two years after Hurricane Katrina, much of the "city that care forgot" still lies in ruins. But Otis Biggs' task as he shuffles his Tarot deck this moist August day is to peer into the future to 2015, the storm's 10th anniversary.

Rings of silver and turquoise flash as one card, then another flops onto a zodiac-patterned table in the incense-perfumed Bottom of the Cup Tea Room in the French Quarter, where the diminutive Biggs has been telling fortunes for 32 years.

An upside down tower, violent storms will hold off until levees are repaired.

The ace of cauldrons, money will flow. The empress, stability, fruitful things. Downtown, near the riverfront, Biggs sees a gleaming glass and steel tower rising, the tallest in the state. Elections will bring new blood and vision. Companies will feel safe to invest in the city, and most of those who fled will return.

"There's hope," Biggs says, his hazel eyes twinkling in light reflected through a crystal ball.

There may be hope, but there are few assurances for the recovering Big Easy.

"For every positive that's going on in New Orleans right now, there's a negative, there's a concern," says Reed Kroloff, who until recently was dean of the school of architecture at Tulane University.

The failure of federally funded, state-administered recovery programs to quickly take hold, and the city's struggle to define and fund plans for neighborhood redevelopment, have shaken confidence about New Orleans' short-term future. Mayor Ray Nagin favors a "market-driven" recovery of the city.

Critics say he has not made the tough decisions necessary to get planning for the city's future moving into high gear.

New Orleans still struggles with corruption. A congressman is under indictment, a senator has been implicated in a sex scandal and a city councilman thought to be a favorite as New Orleans' next mayor pleaded guilty in August to federal bribery charges and resigned.

There are geophysical challenges ahead, too. By 2015, parts of New Orleans will have subsided nearly an additional 8 inches. The city filled up like a bowl when Katrina broke levees on Aug. 29, 2005. Roughly 240 more square miles of the eroding wetlands that protect the city from storm surge will be gone by 2015.

If the Army Corps of Engineers has its way, and billions in federal funds don't get siphoned off by war or another natural disaster, those who remain should be better protected from flooding by 2015.

To the east, a massive levee-and-floodgate structure rising out of the brackish marsh should block the surge from the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet, or MR-GO.

To the north, new flood gates and pumping stations would prevent a surge from Lake Pontchartrain and prevent a repeat of the failures along the city's drainage canals.

The city's population will be smaller a decade after the storm. A recent estimate pegs the current population at around 270,000 about 60 percent of the pre-Katrina total.

Rich Campanella, an urban geographer at Tulane, predicts that by 2015, the city's population will be somewhere around 350,000. Blacks will still outnumber whites, but the margin will be significantly less.

He and others agree the city's residents will be somewhat more affluent, the poor possibly being squeezed out by the increased expense of living in a hurricane zone. And New Orleans could be a city with a younger population.

"Not because there are more children," says Campanella, associate director of the Center for Bioenvironmental Research at Tulane and Xavier universities. "Being elderly and in need of health care in this city might inspire many older people to relocate."

Health care challenges and the dearth of affordable housing will continue to influence the pace of recovery. Nearly half of the hospitals open in the parish before Katrina remain closed, and one is a shell of its former self.

The remaining hospitals serv-

ing the city lost a combined \$56 million in the first five months of 2007, and the projected operating loss for the year is \$135 million, says Leslie Hirsch, who took over Touro Infirmary a week before Katrina.

If major changes aren't made, such as drastic increases in Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement, the city's hospitals will continue to hemorrhage money, says Hirsch, who worries there will be even fewer choices for care.

Before Katrina, many locals rented homes, garrets in the French Quarter, wings of faded mansions Uptown, shotgun homes in Bywater. For the impoverished, sprawling public housing projects offered shelter to more than 5,000 families.

But Katrina closed four-fifths of that subsidized housing.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development wants to demolish four of the biggest housing projects and turn them into Norman Rockwellian mixed-income neighborhoods.

That plan has met with fierce opposition from housing advocates who fear the poor would lose their foothold.

And there's little prospect New Orleans will become the renter's paradise it once was.

The back wall of the city council chamber is lined with architectural renderings of mixed-income, multi-family developments. That is the future planned for the eight-story brick Falstaff brewery, where pigeons now roost and graffiti artists leave their marks.

But so far, those plans are little more than wrinkled drawings.

The city's neighborhoods are repopulating, with and without government aid. But it is a patchwork redevelopment that favors those of means.

In the predominantly black Lower 9th Ward, the city's poorest neighborhood, streetlights are back on and water is flowing. But while there are houses being repaired here and there, and even some innovative solar power projects being instituted, there are vast stretches of empty, weed-choked lots and rooftops still covered in storm debris.

In mostly white Lakeview, where water levels topped 10 feet in some areas, things are

booming.

Harrison Avenue, the main business strip, is fairly buzzing with banks, restaurants, even a Starbucks. Medians once strewn with debris and rotting garbage are now blooming again with crepe myrtles.

Surveys show 47 percent of Lakeview residents have returned, and another 23 percent are working on their homes. Freddy Yoder, a recovery contractor, has not only refurbished his 11-year-old brick Queen Anne Victorian-style home, but he's purchased several other lots in the neighborhood.

"I work with the Corps of Engineers. I go to their projects and I see what actions are being taken," he says. "And I am thoroughly convinced that if we're not there yet we're very close to being in a very safe environment and a very safe place to live."

Campanella, the Tulane geographer, thinks time, weather patterns and the insurance market will prove the folly of allowing people to reoccupy the city's old footprint. He sees the future in New Orleans' past.

Campanella says more than half of New Orleans is at or above sea level. But while nearly all New Orleanians occupied high ground a century ago, only 38 percent lived at or above sea level when Katrina hit.

Using satellite imagery, he has mapped about 2,000 empty or underutilized above-sea-level parcels covering an area about three times the size of the French Quarter.

"All I'm saying is we have this valuable natural resource that's being underutilized," he says, sitting in a grassy lot between two coffee warehouses in Faubourg Marigny.

And what happens with the public school system, long blamed as the root cause of New Orleans' entrenched poverty, will also shape the city's future.

Katrina accelerated a process of replacing the corrupt, underperforming system with reformed traditional schools and charter schools. Recently released test results show higher scores among the charter students. But the system is having trouble attracting teachers.

The clean slate attracted John Alford, a Harvard Business School graduate who moved from Baltimore to run

the Langston Hughes Academy Charter School. By the storm's tenth anniversary, he expects 90 percent of the city's schools to be independently run charters.

"If we do what we're supposed to do," he says, "it can be a glorious city."

Crime remains rampant. Meanwhile, the New Orleans Police Department is still operating out of trailers, and the force continues to lose more officers to retirement and resignations than it can graduate from its academy.

Changes in organization and funding of the criminal courts and public defenders' offices promise to shore up a foundering judicial system. But with a nation-leading per-capita murder rate, the city has an uphill struggle to present an image of being safe.

Katrina continues to bring pain. On a recent day, Stanley Joyce, 68, stood in line at City Hall with hundreds of others seeking to challenge their new property assessments.

The valuation on his house just outside the French Quarter more than doubled. He knows the city needs the tax revenue. But that's a lot to swallow all at once, especially in a city whose waterlines are crumbling and streets are riddled with tire-swallowing potholes.

"If they want to go ahead and buy my house for the price that they assessed it for, I'd sell it to them tomorrow," said Joyce, waving a manila folder with his property records.

Tourism is a bittersweet bright spot. The French Quarter survived Katrina, and the music and restaurant scenes continue to rebound. Some musicians are still missing in action. But Jazz trumpeter Kermit Ruffins, a co-founder of the renowned Rebirth Brass Band, says he and friends are busy as ever.

"It's just so wonderful to be alive and swinging in New Orleans," he says. "We're going to be buried here, man. That's for sure. That's for DAMN sure."

Most of the city's signature restaurants, Brennan's, Emeril's, Commander's Palace, have reopened.

A 70-story Trump hotel and condominium tower is planned for the central business district.

"There will be a Trump Tower," Cliff Mowe, one of The

Donald's co-developers, said last week during a visit to the city for meetings with project attorneys and real estate people.

The building is not scheduled for completion until 2010, but Mowe says developers have received several hundred reservations and deposits from prospective tenants, many for units costing nearly \$2 million.

But as millionaires stake out lofty digs, the city continues to bleed jobs. Tourism is notoriously poor-paying. There are huge questions about where thousands of good-paying jobs needed to sustain the city's rebound will come from.

Since Katrina, the oil industry has continued a shrinking that began in the 1980s. In November, Murphy Oil Corp. closed its New Orleans production office and shifted 100 employees to Houston. Chevron Corp. is building a new office across Lake Pontchartrain in St. Tammany Parish and will move 500 workers from New Orleans later this year.

Entergy Corp. was and likely will remain the city's only Fortune 500 company, says Robert Hartwig, chief economist at the Insurance Information Institute. "It's unlikely that it's going to emerge ... as a major business center," he says.

That means the city's economy will muddle along, buoyed by short-term construction jobs and spending. For the economy to prosper long-term, the city must be seen as safe and well-run.

And there, the jury is out. Local businessman Aidan Gill doesn't need Tarots or tea leaves to know what New Orleans will look like in 2015. All he has to do is read the local newspaper and history books. It'll be just as corrupt and seedy as before Katrina, he believes.

"I am mystified at grown-up, mature, intelligent, educated people for talking about this 'new New Orleans,'" says the Irish native, who dispenses \$45 haircuts and \$600 alligator belts from his men's haircutter and haberdashery on Magazine Street.

"A simple way of putting it for the simple natives: You cannot make a gumbo using the same ingredients every day, and then at the end of every day expect it to taste any different."



# Shiite pilgrims told to leave

By Robert H. Reid  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Fighting erupted Tuesday between rival Shiite militias in Karbala during a religious festival, claiming 51 lives and forcing officials to abort the celebrations and order up to 1 million Shiite pilgrims to leave the southern city.

Security officials said Mahdi Army gunmen loyal to radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr fired on guards around two shrines protected by the Badr Brigade, the armed wing of the Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council.

Residents of Karbala contacted by telephone said snipers were firing on Iraqi security forces from rooftops. Explosions and the rattle of automatic weapons fire could be heard during telephone calls to reporters in the city 50 miles south of Baghdad.

In addition to the deaths, security officials said at least 247 people were wounded, including women and children.

The clashes appeared to be part of a power struggle

among Shiite groups in the sect's southern Iraqi heartland, which includes the bulk of the country's vast oil wealth.

Interior Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Abdul-Karim Khalaf said entrances and exits to Karbala "have been secured and more forces are on the way from other provinces." Officials said buses were sent to evacuate pilgrims from the city, which includes some of the world's most sacred Shiite shrines.

Gunfights also broke out Tuesday between Mahdi militiamen and followers of the Supreme Council in at least two Shiite neighborhoods of Baghdad and in Kut, about 100 miles southeast of the capital, police said.

Extra police took up positions in the center of another Shiite city, Diwaniyah, after gunmen fired on a mosque associated with the Supreme Council, police said. A curfew was clamped on the Shiite city of Najaf after a mortar round exploded on a major square, causing no casualties, officials said.

The trouble started in Karbala late Monday as tens of thousands of Shiites were streaming into the city for the Shabaniyah festival marking the birth of Mohammed al-Mahdi, the 12th and last Shiite imam who disappeared in the 9th century. Devout Shiites believe he will return to Earth to restore peace and harmony.

Scuffles broke out between police and pilgrims as the crowd tried to push through the security checkpoints near the Imam al-Hussein mosque, the focal point of the celebrations. At least five people were killed, police said.

Early Tuesday, crowds of angry pilgrims chanting religious slogans surged through the streets, attacking police and mosque guards, witnesses said. Two ambulances were set ablaze, sending a huge column of black smoke over the city.

Gunmen appeared, firing automatic rifles, rocket-propelled grenades and mortars at security forces and sending panicked pilgrims fleeing the area, police and witnesses said. A member of the city council

said the center of town was in chaos, with pilgrims running in all directions to escape the gunfire.

"We don't know what's going on," said the councilman, who wouldn't allow use of his name for security reasons. "All we know is the huge numbers of pilgrims were too much for the checkpoints to handle and now there is shooting."

Some rounds struck fuel tanks on the roofs of three small hotels, police said.

With the situation spiraling out of control, police ordered pilgrims out of the center of the city, effectively canceling the celebrations which were to reach their climax Tuesday night and Wednesday morning.

"The area where they (the pilgrims) were gathering has been evacuated in order to control those (criminals)," said Khalaf, the Interior Ministry spokesman. He said the gunmen were gathering in three areas in the old town and security forces were chasing them.

In Baghdad, a senior government security official blamed the fighting on al-Sadr's fol-

lowers, saying they provoked the confrontations Monday night and were responsible for the shooting Tuesday. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to avoid enflaming the situation.

Tensions have been rising in southern Iraq as rival Shiite groups maneuver for power, especially in the oil-rich area around Basra, Iraq's second-largest city.

Concern over Basra is mounting as British forces prepare to evacuate the last of their forces from the city and redeploy to the airport 12 miles to the north.

On Tuesday, Hakim al-Miyah, head of the security committee of the Basra municipal council, told The Associated Press that Iraqi forces were incapable of maintaining order in the city once the British leave and that the Baghdad government should send reinforcements.

"Some disorder will occur in the absence of British troops in Basra," he said. "It will take at least two army divisions to fill the gap that will be created by

British troop withdrawal."

Elsewhere, hundreds of U.S. and Iraqi forces backed by helicopters and jet fighters killed 33 Sunni insurgents who were holding back the water supply to the Shiite town of Khalis, about 50 miles north of Baghdad, the U.S. command said.

The assault began before dawn Monday when a joint force was landed by helicopter in the village of Gubbiya, 10 miles east of Khalis. The assault force killed 13 fighters and attack aircraft killed 20 others, the military said. The area is known to be controlled by al-Qaida in Iraq.

Also Tuesday, a roadside bomb exploded in northern Khalis, killing four Iraqi soldiers, the Iraqi army said.

In Fallujah, 40 miles west of Baghdad, mourners buried 11 victims of a mosque suicide bombing Monday. Ten people were wounded in the attack, which police said targeted an anti-al-Qaida Sunni sheik.

*Associated Press correspondents in Karbala contributed to this report.*

## Taliban fighters killed

By Fismik Abrashi  
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — U.S.-led and Afghan troops battled suspected Taliban insurgents in southern Afghanistan on Tuesday in ground clashes and airstrikes that left over 100 militants dead, the coalition said.

In eastern Afghanistan, a suicide bomber attacked NATO troops helping to build a bridge, killing three American soldiers, a U.S. official said. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because not all families had been notified.

The battle in southern Kandahar province's Shah Wali Kot district started after the joint force was ambushed by a large group of insurgents who tried to overrun their position several times, before being strafed by airstrikes, the statement from the coalition said.

"Coalition aircraft destroyed the reinforced enemy emplacements and sniper positions as well as two trucks used to reinforce and re-supply the insurgent force," the statement.

More than 100 suspected insurgents and an Afghan soldier were killed, coalition said. The casualty figures could not be independently verified due to remoteness of the area.

Clash also left three coalition and three Afghan soldiers wounded, the statement said. The nationality of the coalition soldier was not disclosed.

Violence is soaring in Afghanistan. This year more than 3,900 people — most of them militants — have died, according to an Associated Press tally of casualty figures provided by Western and Afghan officials.

Also Tuesday, U.S.-led and Afghan troops raided a house near Kandahar city, killing two suspected militants and detaining five others, a coalition statement said.

Those targeted in the raid were accused of facilitating bomb attacks against coalition and Afghan forces in Kandahar, the statement said. The people detained in the raid will be questioned at a military facility before being turned over to Afghan authorities, it said.

In the Taliban-held Musa Qala district of Helmand province, militants ambushed the joint U.S.-Afghan force Monday, another coalition statement said.

The joint force fought back, targeting militants who were using several compounds and trenches for cover, the statement said.

## Copters save Greek villagers

By Elena Becatoros  
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Firefighters rushed helicopters and buses Monday to evacuate more than two dozen villages threatened by towering walls of flames that had killed 63 people while ravaging swaths of forest and farmland in Greece's worst wildfire disaster in memory.

Four days of devastating blazes from the northern border with Albania to the southern island of Crete unnerved and angered Greeks, drawing strong criticism of the government's response and setting off widespread suspicions and finger-pointing.

The government, which declared a state of emergency, implied the destruction could be part of an orchestrated campaign of arson. But environmental experts expressed skepticism.

People used garden hoses, buckets, tin cans and branches in desperate — and sometimes futile — attempts to beat back flames and save their homes and livelihoods.

Frightened people called television stations pleading for help from the beleaguered fire service, and helicopters or vehicles were sent to several villages to evacuate threatened residents, although some insisted on staying to fight the

flames.

A helicopter flew five people out of Prasidaki in southern Greece, fire department spokesman Yiannis Stamoulis said. Another was sent to the village of Frixia, but residents there refused to leave, he said.

The destruction was so extensive that authorities said they had not had time to tally the amount of burned land — or the number of people injured. Sixty-three people are dead.

A woman and her four children killed Friday, their charred bodies found with the woman's arms around the youngsters, might have been safe if they had stayed at home. It was the only house left untouched in the village of Artemida in the western Peloponnese. The house's white walls and red tile roof were unscathed, surrounded by blackened earth.

Fanned by strong, hot winds, flames raced through grass and trees parched by three heat waves since June. Fires engulfed villages, forests and farms and scorched woodland around Ancient Olympia, birthplace of the Olympic Games.

New fires broke out faster than others could be brought under control, leaving behind a devastated landscape of blackened tree trunks, gutted houses and charred animal carcasses.

The destruction and deaths

enraged Greeks, who already had been stunned by deadly forest fires in June and July, and the disaster appeared likely to dominate political debate before parliamentary elections Sept. 16. Many people said the government did not react quickly enough.

After declaring a state of emergency over the weekend, the government raised the possibility of arson and said several people had been arrested. A prosecutor on Monday ordered an investigation into whether arson attacks could come under Greece's anti-terrorism and organized crime laws.

On Saturday, Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis said it could not be coincidence that so many fires broke out simultaneously in so many areas.

Villagers made similar charges. "These fires were set deliberately, it happens all the time," said Adrianna Katsiki, 45, from the fire-damaged village of Varvassaina in a part of the western Peloponnese that suffered 42 deaths.

In past fires, land developers have been blamed for fires, allegedly using blazes to sidestep laws that ban construction on forest land. Greece has no land registry, so once a region has been burned, there is no definitive proof of whether it was forest, farm or meadow.

"It is rather late now, but the state should designate these ar-

eas to be immediately reforested, map them and complete the forest registry without further delay," said Yiannis Revythiis, chairman of the association of Athens real estate agents. "If an area is officially designated as forest land, who will burn it as it will still count as forest land?"

But it was not clear who was responsible for these fires.

"I think it is unlikely that land development was an incentive behind the arson," said Nikos Bokaris, head of the Panhellenic Union of Forestry Experts. "The afflicted areas are not prime targets for construction. These are mountain areas where land is not that valuable."

An official of the WWF environmental group also dismissed the notion of an orchestrated arson campaign.

"I think these are very dangerous assessments, particularly when the evidence so far does not seem to back them," said Theodota Nantsou, the group's conservation manager for Greece.

The worst fires were concentrated in the mountains of the Peloponnese in the south and on the island of Evia north of Athens. Strong winds blew smoke and ash over the capital.

Greece's few remaining patches of forest were being rapidly incinerated, and the environmental consequences

will be dire, experts said.

"This is an immense ecological disaster," said Nantsou. "We had an explosive mixture of very adverse weather conditions, tinder-dry forests — to an extent not seen for many years — combined with the wild winds of the past two weeks. It's a recipe to burn the whole country."

Bokaris said authorities would have to move quickly to avert environmental problems, such as dangerous runoff from rains on denuded slopes.

"Authorities will have to take measures to forestall ground erosion," he said. "Luckily, in the broader area there are no large cities that will bear the brunt of floodwaters from the mountains. There will be more floods, but the waters will be carried through the natural system of watercourses and ravines to the sea."

The government has budgeted more than \$274 million for immediate aid to families, businesses and communities. Authorities also appealed for help from abroad, and 19 countries promised planes, helicopters and firefighters.

The U.S. was discussing with the Greek government what form of aid was needed, State Department spokesman Tom Casey said in Washington. "I hope that shortly we will have some concrete plans to announce to you," he said.

## Iran ready to replace U.S. as Iraq's power

Ali Akbar Dareini  
The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad boldly declared Tuesday that U.S. political influence in Iraq is "collapsing rapidly" and said his government is ready to help fill any power vacuum.

The hard-line leader also defended Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, a fellow Shiite Muslim who has been harshly criticized by American politicians for his unsuccessful efforts to reconcile Iraq's Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds.

"The political power of the occupiers is collapsing rapidly," Ahmadinejad said at a news conference, referring to U.S. troops in Iraq. "Soon, we will see a huge power vacuum in the region. Of course, we are prepared to fill the gap, with the help of neighbors and regional friends like Saudi Arabia, and with the help of

the Iraqi nation."

Ahmadinejad did not elaborate on his remarks, an unusual declaration of Iran's interest in influencing its neighbor's future. The mention of a Saudi role appeared aimed at allaying the fears of Saudi Arabia and other Sunni Muslim nations that Iran wants to dominate in Iraq. Even though Saudi Arabia and Iran have not cooperated in the past, it "doesn't mean it can't happen," Ahmadinejad said.

Iran fought a brutal eight-year war with Saddam Hussein's regime and welcomed the elimination of a deeply hated enemy. But Iran also strongly objects to the presence of America, another rival, over its eastern and western borders in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"Occupation is the root of all problems in Iraq," he said.

President Bush defended the Iraq war in a speech at the American Legion's national

convention and accused Iran of violating human rights and trying to destabilize Iraq, Afghanistan and the wider region.

"Iran is sending arms to the Taliban in Afghanistan to be used to attack American and NATO troops," Bush said. "Iran has arrested visiting American scholars who have committed no crimes and impose no threat to their regime. And Iran's active pursuit of technology that could lead to nuclear weapons threatens to put a region already known for instability and violence under the shadow of a nuclear holocaust. Iran's actions threaten the security of nations everywhere."

Bush and the U.S. ambassador in Iraq have given blunt assessments of political stagnation in Baghdad, and Bush has said it is up to the Iraqi people to decide if their government deserved to be replaced.

## Mideast leaders tackle status of Jerusalem

By AMY TEIBEL  
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — The Israeli and Palestinian leaders on Tuesday tackled the core issues that have tormented Mideast peacemakers for decades — Palestinian refugees, final borders and the fate of Jerusalem.

It was the first time Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas addressed the issues in depth and represented an important building block for a U.S.-sponsored international peace conference planned for November.

Olmert met several times with Abbas in the past few months, but had been reluctant to take on the most contentious issues, preferring to focus on general outlines. That approach riled Palestinians, who want to take on the core questions of Palestinian statehood.

Heading into the meeting at Olmert's Jerusalem residence, Abbas warned that the fall

peace conference would be a "waste of time" if the three big issues were glossed over. After the talks, both sides confirmed that Israel had swept aside its reluctance to address them.

"These core issues have to be discussed on the way to finding a diplomatic solution of two states for two peoples," an official in Olmert's office quoted the Israeli leader as saying.

The official, who agreed to speak only if not identified because the meeting was supposed to be private, said the two sides hoped by late October to come up with a framework for ending their conflict and creating a Palestinian state.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said the leaders did not go into the nitty-gritty of the questions or prepare written documents. But he declared that the time has come for action, not talk. "We are at a stage to reach decisions," he said.

As he entered Olmert's residence, Abbas signed the guest book in Arabic with a wish for peace between the two peoples.



## Tests in and out of the classroom

By FRANCIS NILES  
CONTRIBUTOR

As the sun rises on the first day of the new semester, many of us are embarking on our own journeys to enlightenment. Whether freshman or senior, sophomore or graduate student, we all are going to have tests inside and outside the classroom. We all will have to make decisions that are ramifications in our lives that will be permanent. It is important that we make the best decision in each of these tests in order to prosper.

As Aggies of North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, there are stan-

dards that must be upheld by us for our legacy to survive. We are also capable of living out our dreams that will keep our legacy alive. We are a group of over-achieving, personifications of the American Dream. Many of us draw lineage from people who were disenfranchised and viewed as hopeless. But those people over came such obstacles and passed their tests inside and outside the classroom. They paved the way for us to be where we are today.

Do not stress out over the mistakes that will be made during the time here. This is the time to "get messy and make mistakes" but do not take ad-

vantage of this special time either. Some mistakes that could be made are not reversible. Not everyone takes heed of this fact and will not make it to the glorious day of graduation on that second Saturday of May every year. There are people in place that can help you make your decisions and avoid some of the mistakes others have made.

The support system at A&T is a thing of beauty. Many of the professors and administration actually slept in the same beds and sat in the same chairs as you at one point. They know how you are feeling so go talk to them.

They walked the similar paths as you and can give you

words of wisdom to keep you on the right path and passing your tests inside and outside the classroom.

At the end of the day, we are here to prepare ourselves to become the future leaders for the next generation looking for guidance.

The successes and failures that we will have will become the future lessons for the next generation and will be used for their study guides for their tests. They will study our steps we take on our paths of enlightenment for their own.

So live out your college years to the fullest and stay prepared for your tests inside and outside the classroom.

## Leaving a legacy

By MICHAEL J. MCCRAY  
INTERIM EDITOR IN CHIEF

It's impossible to ignore the historical significance of The A&T Register in the history of this university and in the black community of Greensboro.

For over 80 years, it has been woven into the fabric of life at this institution that every Wednesday you can look out and see it sitting on newsstands around campus, telling you what's happening in the Aggie world and outside.

I'm very big on honoring the past. As interim editor in chief, I've stressed making sure that the things we do know stand up in history. We have a historic responsibility to not only keep the paper alive but also make sure that it's relevant and up to date. I invite you all to take a look through our archives. There was a time when an eight-page newspaper from a little black school in the segregated South stood shoulder to shoulder with some of the more prestigious white schools in the country for it's content and commitment to serious journalism.

Print journalism is a struggling medium, but it will never die. It's a reason why Shakespeare is classic and relevant today. It's funny to see that parking problems and step shows have been a big deal at A&T for over a half century.

This week, it was a simple phone call from the Chancellor's office that made me realize that people never forget.

The woman on the other end needed a favor. A former editor in chief had passed away and the university was trying to put a memorial together for him. Now, I had never heard the name Charles Bussey. All I knew was that 52 years before, he held the same position I currently hold and that even at the end of his life, one in which he became a General in the Armed Forces, he was still remembered for being the editor in chief of The A&T Register during the 1954-55 school year.

So I went and found the book that had papers from that year and sat in the Sit-In. Just flipping through, I had a smile on my face, because A&T hasn't at all.

Back then the military was on the front page a lot, but we still care about football, fashion, Aggie Pride and Greek life. Parking has been always been a problem and we've always

had to have the biggest acts for Homecoming.

Minus the cigarette ads and a couple of stories that you'd have to be around in 1955 to understand, we're the same school and the same Register.

Flipping through those tattered and yellowing pages made me realize that what we're doing is timeless. Those half ass stories today are half ass stories forever and 50 years from now, there will be some editor digging through archives (hopefully online or whatever the innovation will be by then) to find me and my hope is that they'll look at what I did with the paper and admire my something we've done and then use that idea the same way.

I've dug through the archives and said "Hmm, that's kinda hot" and reintroduced slogans and saying from the 40's back in the A&T lexicon.

What I'm trying to stress to you is if you don't understand the responsibility we have to continue a cycle of excellence at this university, then you're missing the point of being here. I've been in the mindset of "F\*\*\* all that history, I'm just trying to get my degree", but that was before I realized just in my being here I'm apart of that history so I might as well make an impact. That means taking pride in whatever it is you're doing to better this school.

I started at The A&T Register my freshman year not even wanting to write. I just wanted to contribute ideas because I felt like the paper could do more. From there I became a contributor, wrote stories for a year, moved up to photographer as a sophomore, became an editor my junior year and the editor my senior year.

I'll admit that in my first year, the Register was just a blip on the radar. A media outlet I could use to pass the time, but it's when you hear alums talk about what they remember about the Register, meet people from other backgrounds who've been reading it for 30 years and see how hard the editors who understand the historical significance work on the paper that you realize it's a lot bigger than you originally thought.

All I want for this school year is for my staff, the student body and faculty of this university to understand that this little paper is a big deal, A&T is a big deal and that we wholeheartedly care about how we stand.

## Music, our renaissance

By TANISHA FORDHAM  
CONTRIBUTOR

Renaissance by definition is the revival through an art form. Throughout history, generations have "revived" the community at large through a metamorphosis of music.

Historically, the music of almost every generation is rejected by the living generation before. There is no difference when it comes to the music of today. Hip hop music of the 21st Century has been rejected by many people who came up to the tunes of the great Ray Charles, the Spinners and other singers and groups of the mid to late 1900s.

The skepticism is not necessarily unable to be understood. The music of today's youth is considerably more "risqué" than a lot of music from the past, however, just as music has been through many renaissances since its conception, it is going through one today. I with the A&T Register spoke with many different artists of today to explain why music: [is] our renaissance.

How do you feel music can help to change the world?

"I don't feel that music changes the world but rather the world changes music. For

as long as history tells us, music is a language that has been used amongst every culture for various purposes. Entertainment, art, wars, therapy, etc are some of the many. As various cultures develop, change and mature, so does the music. Kind of like technology."

Colin Haynes, Percussionist and Manager of Beautiful Experience: "A lot of our emotions and feelings are enormously controlled by the effect that music can have in a person's life, believe it or not, a large majority of positive and meaningful music is still left in this society today. I believe that this helps a lot of individuals through tough and complicated times and situations. That definitely can make a very effective change to the world."

Jamison Cody Bowens, 20, vocal Performer: "Music is the one thing that can creep under your skin and get you to sing a song even when you don't like it, if it's catchy enough. The right song can make people start caring about things you'd never think about. Of course, the wrong song can have you in love with strippers and such (I have respect for T-Pain)."

Daniel G.O.K.I. Ferguson, vocalist, performer at The Barn Dinner Theatre:

"Real music makes real people, fake nonsense makes fake nonsensers." O'Neil Barnes, Jazz Musician, Trumpet Player

What is your special gift to the world of music?

"I am a percussionist that is how I make my contribution to music. I appreciate and have performed almost all genres including classical, jazz, R&B, blues, Go Go, gospel, marching, the list can go on forever. But I also have natural leadership skills and when not performing you may find me behind the scenes organizing different performing group," said Colin Haynes.

"My special gift to the world of music is uniqueness, and I say that because I feel like I bring a sense of realness and compassion to my music, whether it's an original song or a song from another artist. I also think that a lot of today's artists lack a sense of realness and compassion mainly because of their love of money."

Jamison Cody Bowens: "I want to bring Blues back to it. Not necessarily the actual blues. It's just that a lot of urban music today has no soul in it. Nothing is real. Everything is superficial; you can have a hot song and put something real in it. I want to prove that."

Daniel G.O.K.I. Ferguson:

Do you think certain types of music are harmful to the urban community, if so, which types?

"Throughout the history of man we have been a violent species and the youth have been trained to act this way. With today's technology we have television and radio where these violent and immoral truths about us as a people are viewed widely but it is not the media and music that makes us this way. We or those that support that lifestyle make the music the way it is; not that the music makes us the way we are."

Colin Haynes: "Most definitely, I would say (some) hip-hop because it's the most influential genre of all, mainly because it grabs an enormous amount of the urban community. I think it can be harmful by certain lyrics, actions, and morals that can come from different levels of hip-hop which tends to grad the younger crowd because clearly television, and advertisement can be very dominate over the right way that parents aim to raise their children."

Daniel G.O.K.I. Ferguson: "No, only dummies that live in BET-land and MTV-land are affected like that."

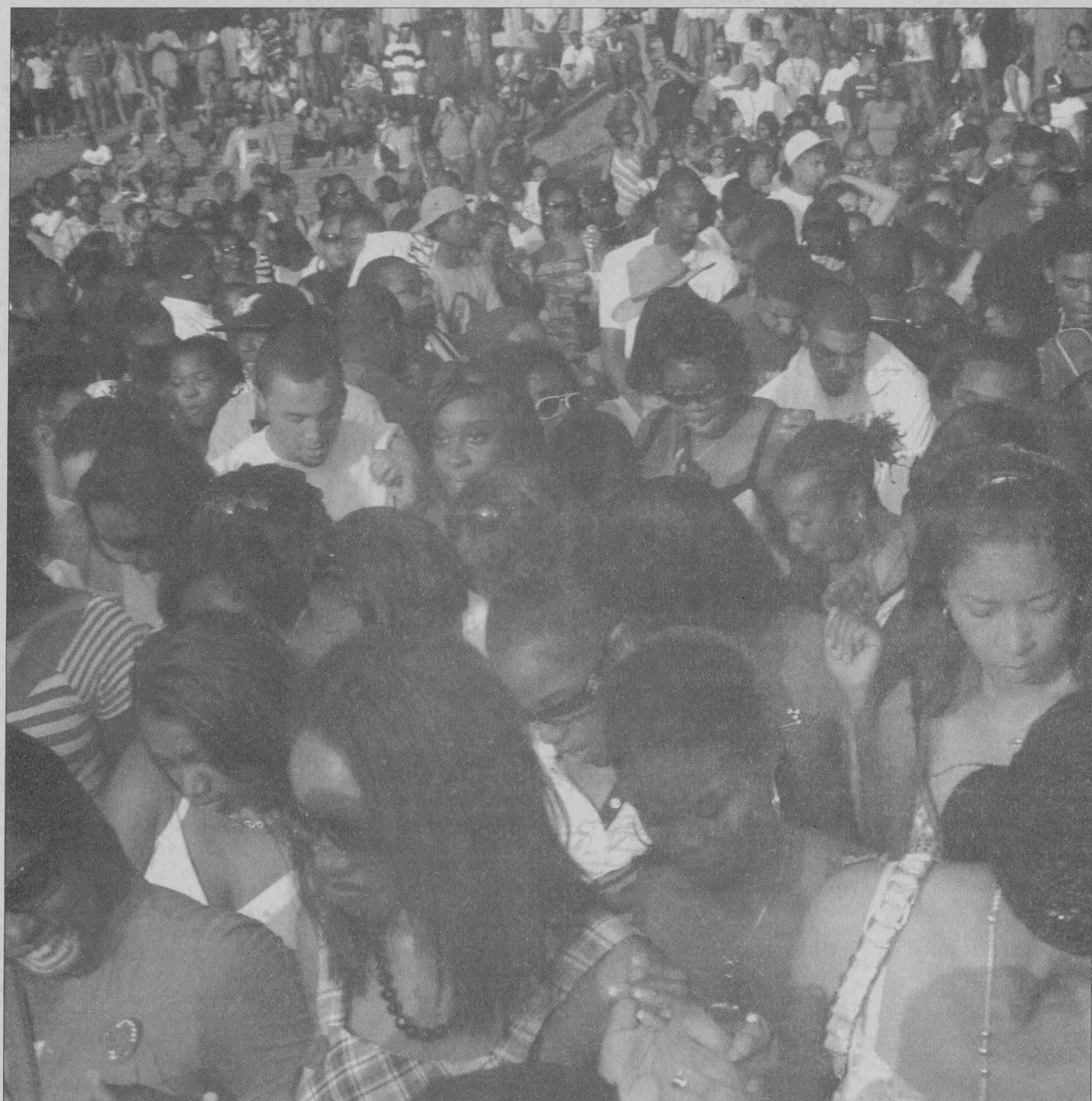


PHOTO BY LEROY MIKELL/PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ROB COLEMAN

# Are you in this picture?

Don't forget  
aggienewsonline.com  
is your source for  
everything A&T

www.ncatregister.com  
The official website of  
The A&T Register



# Consumer confidence weakens

By PHILANA PATTERSON  
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Consumer confidence weakened in August as Americans focused on turbulent financial markets, a decline in home prices and tighter credit standards.

The New York-based Conference Board said Tuesday its Consumer Confidence Index, declined to 105.0 from a revised reading of 111.9 in July, which was still a six-year high.

Although the index was down, it was slightly stronger than the 104.5 that Wall Street analysts expected.

"A softening in business conditions and labor market conditions has curbed consumers' confidence this month," said Lynn Franco, director of The Conference Board Consumer Research Center. "In addition, the volatility in financial markets and continued subprime housing woes may have played a role in dampening consumers' spirits."

The survey is closely watched

because consumer spending represents two-thirds of the U.S. economy and confidence levels tend to influence spending.

"It was down, but that was widely expected with what's going on with housing," said Richard Huber, an economist with A.G. Edwards in St. Louis. "That's weighing on consumers."

While lower, the August reading allows Federal Reserve policymakers to take a wait-and-see approach about cutting short-term interest rates, which have held steady at 5.25 percent since June 2006, when the Federal Open Market Committee meets Sept. 18, Huber said.

"It removes their having to cut rates because of a broad-based consumer confidence meltdown," Huber said.

The Present Situation index, which measures how shoppers feel now about economic conditions, decreased to 130.3 in August from 138.3 in July.

The Expectations Index, which measures shoppers'

outlook for the next six months, fell to 88.2 from 94.4.

Consumers' assessment of the labor market only weakened slightly. Those saying jobs are "hard to get" increased to 19.7 percent in August from 18.7 percent. Those saying jobs are plentiful fell to 27.5 percent from 30.0 percent in July and those saying jobs are not so plentiful rose to 52.8 percent from 51.3 percent.

A separate report released Tuesday said U.S. home prices fell 3.2 percent in the second quarter, the steepest decline since Standard & Poor's began its nationwide housing index in 1987.

MacroMarkets LLC Chief Economist Robert Shiller, an architect of that report, said the declining residential real estate market "shows no signs of slowing down."

The consumer confidence survey from the Conference Board is based on a representative sample of 5,000 U.S. households to measure consumer sentiment on present economic

conditions and the spending outlook for the next six months. The index was based at 100 in 1985.

After five years of rapidly rising prices, the housing market has stalled as consumers who borrowed at adjustable rates find it difficult to meet monthly payments that spiked and a growing number of homes have fallen into foreclosure. Lenders have tightened credit standards making it harder for potential home buyers to obtain a loan and for homeowners with shaky credit to refinance.

The problems seeped into the broader market as the value of investments backed by mortgages plunged sending stocks on a volatile ride for several weeks, until calming somewhat when all three major indices rose last week — the stock market's strongest in a month.

Stocks fell Tuesday. Minutes from the Aug. 7 Federal Open Market Committee meeting failed to reassure investors the Fed will definitely cut interest rates to calm the market.

According to the minutes, the committee held out hope for "a return to more normal market conditions" without any intervention.

Ten days later, the Federal Reserve stepped in by lowering the interest rate it charges banks for loans, and it has pumped billions of dollars into the U.S. financial system to alleviate any cash-flow problems.

Economists and investors believe the odds are rising the Fed will lower the interest rate banks charge each other on overnight loans, its main tool for influencing overall economic activity, on or before its Sept. 18 meeting.

In late afternoon trading, the Dow fell 190.21, or 1.43 percent, to 13,131.92. Broader stock indicators also fell. The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 24.34, or 1.66 percent, to 1,442.45, and the Nasdaq composite index shed 44.23, or 1.73 percent, to 2,517.02.

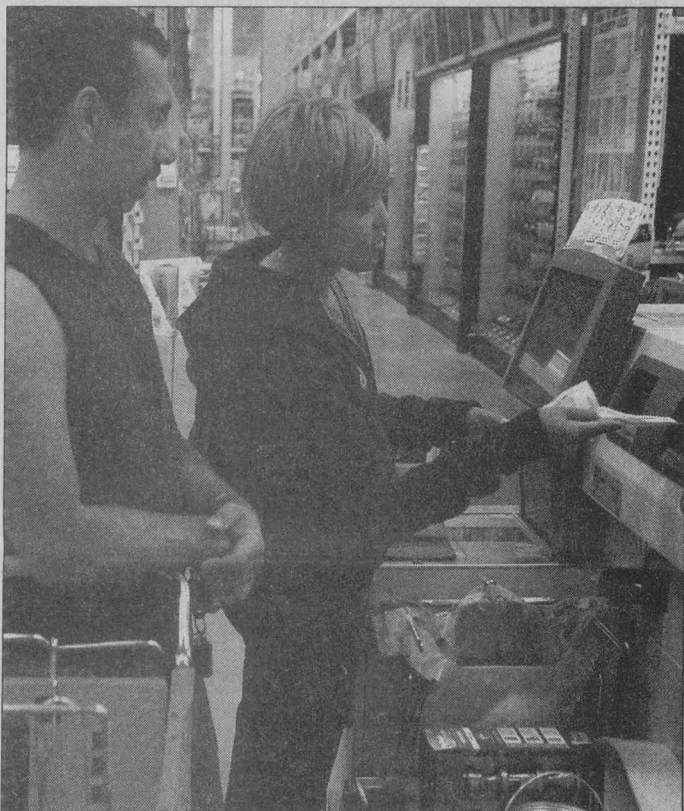
While investors watch the Fed, policymakers have their eyes on the markets. Fed poli-

cymakers will be able to digest readings on manufacturing, jobs and retail sales before their next scheduled meeting, but they are most closely monitoring financial markets, economists said.

"We think the Fed is concentrating on financial market confidence, rather than the economy, which looked pretty good going into the credit problems," said Adam York, an economic analyst at Wachovia Corp. in Charlotte.

So far, a strong economic picture, outside the housing woes, is keeping many economists upbeat about spending trends. U.S. consumers are in the midst of the back-to-school shopping season and will soon gear up for holiday shopping in November and December.

"We have certainly pulled back consumer spending expectations in the third and fourth quarters," York said. "We don't expect a disastrous holiday season by any means, but we expect a moderation by some degree."



MCT Campus

Luis Melendez, left, and Ellen Michael pay with cash after using the self-checkout lane at The Home Depot, Dec. 15, 2005, in Orlando, Florida. Analysts say a third of all "service interactions" are self-serve. Within four years, it will rise to better than 50-50. The company is selling its supply division at \$1.8 billion less than the originally agreed upon price.

## Home Depot to sell at loss supply division

GREG BLUESTEIN  
AP BUSINESS WRITER

ATLANTA (AP) — The Home Depot Inc. said Tuesday it has agreed to sell its wholesale distribution business to private equity groups for \$8.5 billion — about \$1.8 billion less than originally agreed.

The announcement comes after several days of intense negotiations to preserve the deal, even at a lower price.

The sale price as announced in June was \$10.3 billion. But tightening credit conditions and a rocky housing market led to renegotiation.

As part of the amended terms, Home Depot will purchase a 12.5 percent equity interest in the whole business for \$325 million and will guarantee a \$1 billion senior secured loan of HD Supply, a business that serves construction contractors.

The sale is scheduled to take place on Thursday.

"Despite the softness in the financing and residential construction markets, the terms of the HD Supply sale deliver shareholder value today and in the future as we will share in HD Supply's upside potential," said Frank Blake, chairman and chief executive of Home Depot, the world's

biggest home improvement store chain.

"We are now focused on our retail business," he said.

The buyers include affiliates of Bain Capital Partners, the Carlyle Group and Clayton, Dubilier & Rice.

Home Depot said it expects to net approximately \$7.9 billion in cash proceeds from the sale.

Company spokeswoman Paula Drake said Home Depot plans to go ahead with a planned stock buyback.

"We are committed to the \$22.5 billion recapitalization, which will be completed as soon as practicable," Drake said.

Stifel, Nicolaus & Company analyst David Schick said in a research report Tuesday the sale by Home Depot "is a notable achievement" considering the slump in home construction and troubled credit market.

"The sale of the HD Supply business, though for a lower price, should be viewed favorably," Schick wrote.

Investors, happy to see the deal completed, bid Home Depot shares up 2 cents to \$35.05 Tuesday.

Associated Press Reporter  
Russ Bynum in Savannah  
contributed to this story.

## Debit Card 101

### Do's and don'ts to healthy finances

By SUSAN TOMPOR  
MCT Campus

DETROIT — Joseph Rizk, 20, figures it was one trip to Taco Bell that sent his checking account over the edge.

When he was a senior at Wayne State University, Rizk pulled out his Chase debit card to get some fast food. He spent about \$5 more than he had in his checking account. He didn't spot the trouble early enough and ultimately got hit with about \$350 in banking fees.

"I overdrew, and they pretty much pummeled me with charges," said Rizk, who graduated this summer with a bachelor's degree in biological sciences.

This is one story that's smart to share with anyone who is heading off to college. The debit card — no matter how cute all those commercials might be — isn't necessarily your best friend.

And at a time when many parents are struggling to cover higher tuition bills, the last thing a college student needs to do is trigger hundreds of dollars in senseless overdraft fees, too. The fees add up quickly at \$25 to \$35 a pop.

Overdraft charges are costing people about \$17.5 billion each year, according to estimates by the Center for Responsible Lending, a consumer group that analyzed data on overdrafts. Banks have made it easier for consumers to overdraw their accounts and rack up big fees.

Young consumers who prefer paying with plastic, instead of paper, are vulnerable.

About 45 percent of overdrafts are attributed to using a debit card or taking out cash from the ATM, according to the center.

Pulling out a debit card to buy fast food has turned into a financial tripwire.

"In the past you couldn't overdraft at McDonald's, now you can," said Eric Halperin, director of the Center for Responsible Lending's Washington office.

Three years ago, Halperin noted, most banks routinely denied debit card purchases at the checkout lane if you did not have enough money in your checking account.

"The fact that you can overdraft with a debit card is relatively new," said Halperin, who favors legislation that would require banks to, among other things, disclose the annual interest rate on what consumer groups call overdraft loans to consumers. (Banks call

#### HOW TO AVOID BIG BANK PENALTIES

Talk to your bank or credit union about setting up a service that enables the bank to tap into money in a savings account. Use cash for small stuff.

Keep a little extra in the checking account.

Talk to your bank about getting fees cut or lowered — if you're a first-time offender.

Do not use a debit card to buy gas, check into a hotel or rent a car.

Record every dollar you withdraw at ATMs, as well as what you spend with debit cards or checks. Take into account an extra \$2 or \$2.50 ATM fees if you use a machine your bank doesn't own.

Know that your bank likely will charge you a fee if you deposit a check from a friend and that check bounces.

Balance your checkbook. Keep a running tally of your purchases and any fees before you get the statement.

Check your account online. But understand that the balance you get online doesn't mean that all checks have cleared and that you have the amount listed to spend.

Consider having a parent as a co-owner on the account.

the charges overdraft fees.)

In the last few years, banks and credit unions began allowing more debit card purchases to go through at checkouts as a convenience to consumers, even if there is not enough money in the checking account. Most customers are routinely enrolled in so-called bounce-protection programs that, according to consumer groups, are not explained well and turn out to be expensive.

In many cases, consumers would pay less in fees if they went to the bank and set up a system to link the checking account to a savings account, a line of credit or a credit card to cover an overdraft.

For young consumers, the rules can be particularly tricky.

Some think they're in the clear because they've just checked their balances with tellers or online.

But that account balance often does not reflect how much money there is available to spend.

"We don't have real-time transactions. There will always be outstanding transactions that the consumer has authorized but have not hit the bank," said Nessa Feddis, senior federal counsel for the American Bankers Association in Washington.

Rizk was upset that a teller never warned him the money he was depositing would go toward covering overdraft fees. So after he deposited one check, he thought he had more money to spend. He kept spending, triggering more fees. That's how a \$5 purchase started a chain of fees.

He begged for mercy at the bank, got some but still ended up paying \$150 in fees.

Now he buys fast food with cash.

While many consumers would never dream of writing checks for \$2 or \$3, the debit card makes it easy, and many young people see it as a convenience.

It's easy to forget that the debit card is really just a plastic version of a check.

"You've got to keep track of what you're spending, just as you did in the old days when you wrote checks," said Mary Kay Bean, a spokeswoman for Chase in Detroit.

And if you wait until you see the next statement, it's too late.

"The debit card is really where it's a serious problem," argues Ed Mierzewski, the consumer program director of the U.S. Public Interest Research Group in Washington. "It's harder to keep track of your balance because of the tricks banks use."

Say you write a \$100 check to cover books — and then put \$5 on the debit card for coffee, \$15 on the debit card for dry cleaning and then write a check for \$60 to cover a phone bill.

That's \$180 in transactions and checks. Say you had \$158 in the checking account. You're \$22 short.

Would you face one bounced check fee of \$34?

Probably not. The bank most likely would clear the \$100 check first. And then, the bank would attempt to clear the \$60 check. Whoops, you don't have enough to cover that check.

So then you're looking at three overdrafts — the \$60 check, the \$5 debit card and the \$15 debit card.

At \$35 a pop, that's \$105 in fees.

At some banks, there are extra fees if an account continues to be overdrawn for five or more business days.

"Everybody advertises free

checking, but it's only free at the front end," Mierzewski said.

Many consumers, of course, do not pay any fees for checking accounts.

About 65 percent of consumers spend \$3 or less in monthly fees for bank services, such as checking accounts and ATMs, according to a survey of 1,000 consumers. The American Bankers Association released the survey last week.

Consumers who don't get hit with the fees typically balance their checkbooks, use direct deposit, don't make mistakes, keep plenty of money in savings and checking and avoid using debit cards for every whim.

Yet consumer groups argue that overdraft fees often hit those who can least afford them. A small group of consumers typically pays most of the overdraft fees.

Diane Page, 41, of Sterling Heights, Mich., said her son Joshua, 17, was charged eight fees of \$25 each in one day. It added up to \$200 in fees for being overdrawn \$130.

He was \$330 in the hole. "This is a 17-year-old kid," she said.

The money was in the bank at the time and spent on different days with a debit card from Comerica Bank.

The trouble began when Joshua withdrew cash before he left for U.S. Army basic training at Ft. Jackson, S.C., in July.

His mother admits that he didn't keep track of purchases. He based future spending on a balance the teller gave him. But that balance didn't include outstanding items. He didn't leave enough money in the account to cover purchases that had not yet cleared and were posted later.

So he got socked with one \$25 fee for \$1.79 at 7-Eleven.

One \$25 fee for \$4.12 at Little Caesars.

One \$25 fee for \$4.76 at Burger King.

One \$25 fee for \$6.24 at White Castle.

One \$25 fee for \$6.76 at Burger King.

One \$25 fee for \$7.62 at White Castle.

One \$25 fee for \$14.77 at 7-Eleven.

The eighth \$25 fee would have been for the cash he withdrew at the bank.

After his mother spotted trouble, she got involved and the bank agreed to waive some fees. But instead of \$200, Joshua is still being charged \$100 in fees.

"It's just not right," she said.



## CRANKIN' THAT with SOULJA BOY TELL 'EM

By TIANDREA NORRINGTON  
ARTS & LIFE EDITOR

Soulja Boy Tell Em is a Chicago born, Atlanta raised rapper that first took the internet by storm with catchy dance tracks. Now the kid who has everybody from age three to 83, "Crank dat Soulja Boy."

The 17-year old, who's inspirations include 50 Cent, is already making giant moves in the music industry under the Interscope label and producer Mr. Collipark's influence. Collipark, who is known for his work with the Ying Yang Twins and others, compared Soulja Boy's early success to Michael Jackson before he hit wax.

Before he was crowned Billboard Magazine's new "It" Rapper for 2007, Soulja Boy was taking over the underground scene being discovered by people worldwide via inter-

net downloads. The exposure of the internet has helped lead him to where he is today, with a generated six million MySpace views, over 500,000 plays and a fan base that rivals such popular acts as Beyonce and Omarion.

There's plenty of reasons for success to go to his head. He currently has the number six song in country and the number one ringtone download on mobile carriers AT&T, Verizon and Sprint and is third on T-Mobile.

But the man with nearly 1.8 million views of his "How To Crank That Instructional Video" trying to remain humble with all the recognition and sudden fame he is receiving right now.

"I take that [the attention] as a form of flattery, and it has me feeling like that's a good look," Soulja Boy said.

When asked about the other rappers and groups out now that also have "crank dat" dances,

Soulja Boy does not see them as competition at all.

"They just like what I'm doing and they want to make their own dances to capitalize on it, so it's like another form of flattery to me."

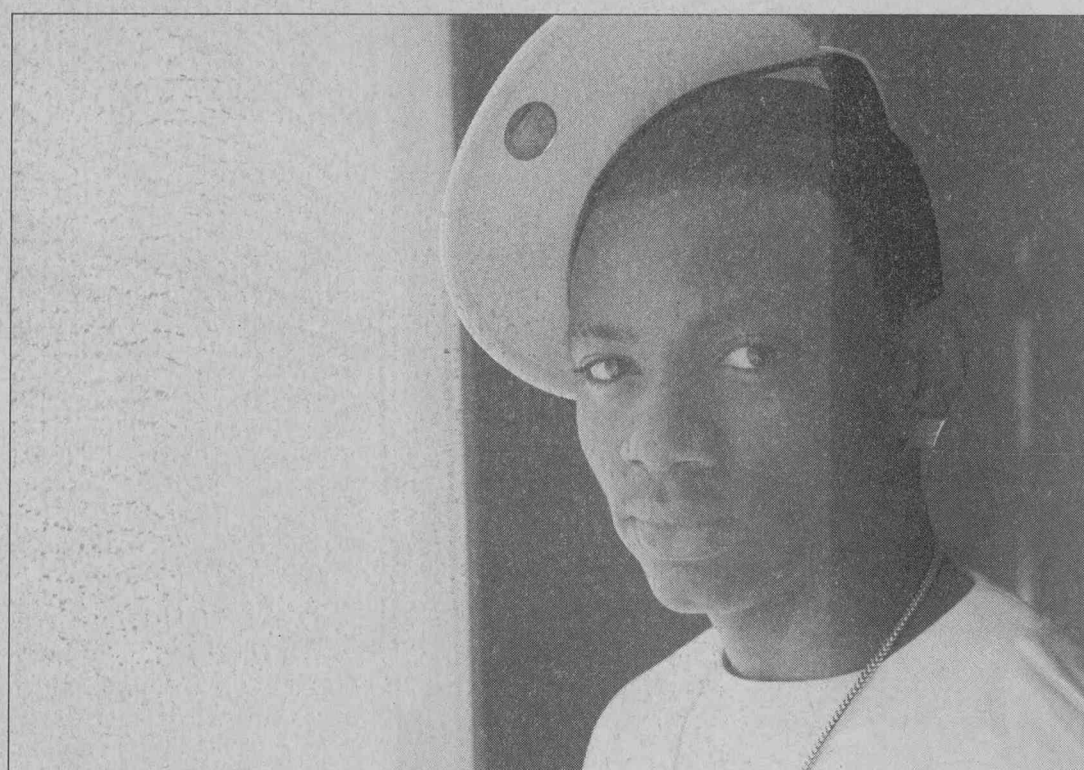
To those other aspiring rappers out there that want to get in the game one day as Soulja Boy has so cleverly done with his original style, he lets them know how they may go about doing so.

"Just do what it do man. If you really want it bad enough then you can get it", he said.

He also believes that once fame is gained by any celebrity, they should always stay committed to their fans.

"I talk to my fans everyday when I get a chance, whether it's on MySpace, just emailing or whatever."

Looks like we all will be "crankin' that" for a while.



# This blank space could be yours.

Writers needed  
jobs@ncatregister.com

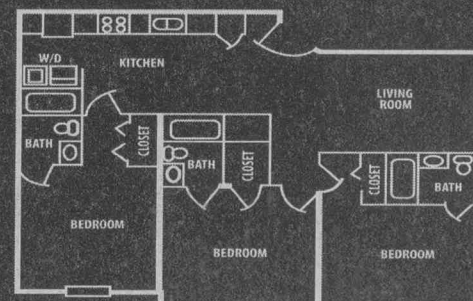
THE A&T  
REGISTER

## COMFORT

expect to be *i m p r e s s e d* !

The right choice  
in student living

- 24-hour fitness center
- Walking distance to A&T campus
- Courtesy patrol
- Utility allowance included
- High-speed Internet access
- Built-in microwaves/dishwasher
- Washer and dryer included
- Free cable package with HBO



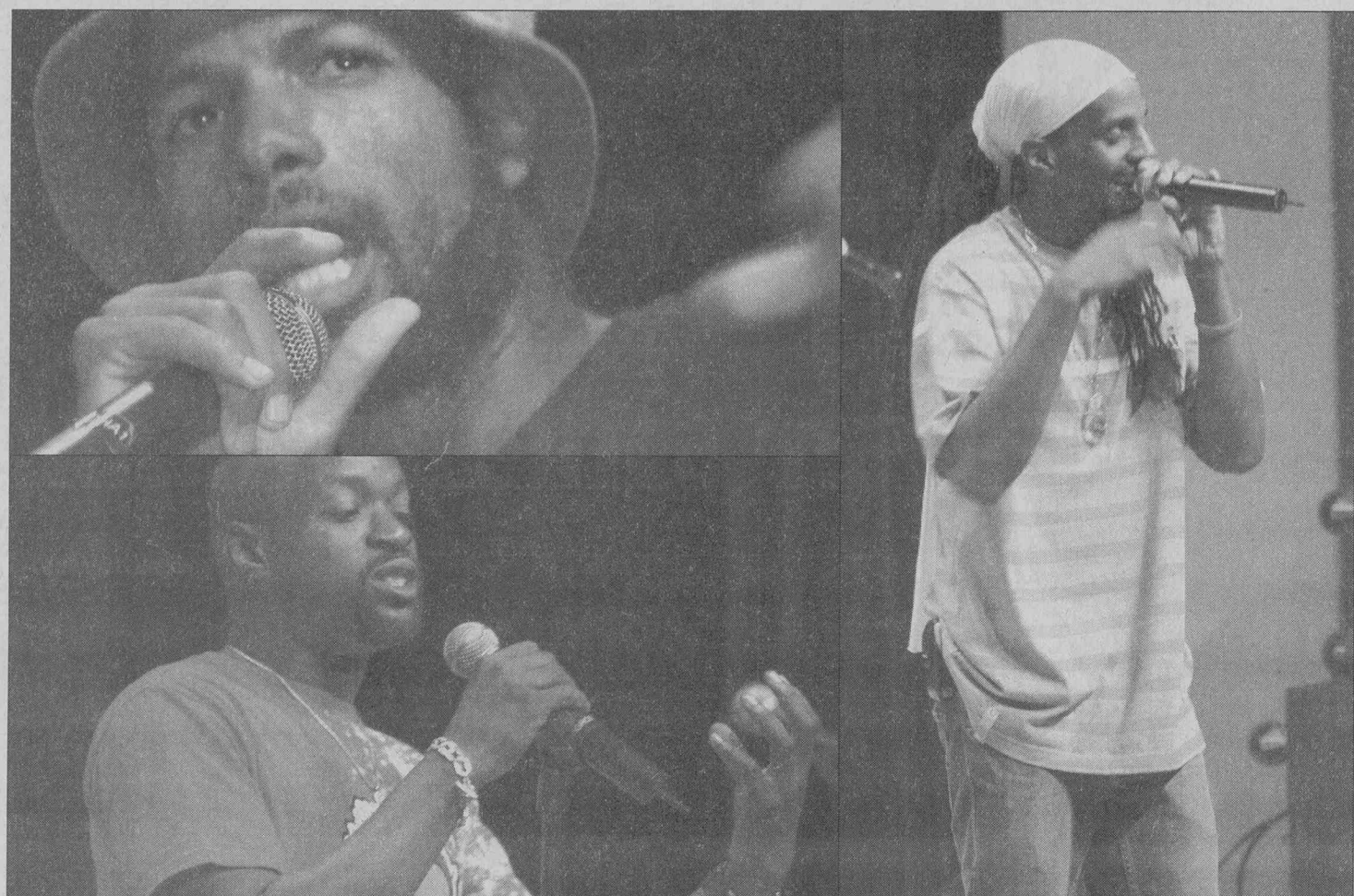
3 Bedroom/3 Bath

COLLEGIATE  
COMMONS

1407 Cunningham Street • Greensboro, NC 27401  
www.collegiatecommons.com

336.389.0820





PHOTOS BY JAMES SHROPSHIRE • THE A&amp;T REGISTER

# Spoken word is alive

By AASIYA TOWNSELL  
NEWS EDITOR

SUAB presented Black Ice, the voice of the “have nots”, along with other spoken-word artists who slipped their lyrical metaphors onto the mic Wednesday, August 22nd in the Harrison Auditorium.

Black Ice, a native of Philadelphia, is the first vocal artist to be signed to Def Jam Records (and he joked the first spoke word artist to leave) and is a Tony Award winning HBO poet.

He rocked the stage with his poetry from off of his new album “The Death of Willie Lynch”.

He is one who has been an artist all his life so adding his craft to words verbally was no challenge. He first started off spitting at his local barber-shop where he worked and from there the word spread of his talented usage of verbal expressions.

His poems can be described as the words for the week, but he is simply just telling his “black struggle” in a poetic form that can

relate to any race who has been at the bottom of the totem pole.

“I have a voice for the voiceless, I just give my perspective, the black man’s,” he said.

The audience felt every word he threw out and wanted him to recite more of his poetry.

All the performers of the show consisted of Universal Mathematics along with a step-team made up of his students, Phat Gravity Crew, The Collective, Mr. Rozzi, J.Ivy, Torae, and Black Ice.

The audience was receptive to each performer, whether one was freestyling, playing the bongos, spinning on the floor or just plain reciting poetry. Each artist gave it their all and the crowd was feeding off their positive energy.

“The energy was on, 10 thousand percent and very perceptive from the audience” said J.Ivy.

The crowd seemed to respond to him the most when he recited one of his more sensual poems with a twist at the end that gave

CHECK OUT THE BLACK ICE  
POETRY PHOTO SLIDESHOW ON  
NCATREGISTER.COM

the crowd a surprised reaction.

He also invited his wife on stage who blew up the mic with her intense singing voice.

President Ashley Thweatt of SUAB stated that the program was a success even though it took a year to get Black Ice, but is thankful that everything eventually fell into place.

She also stated that Victor Davidson, vice president of SUAB, also helped out a great deal with getting the local artists to perform for the show. The organization is also thankful for Mrs. Denise Iverson-Payne who is over student activities that made the program possible.

## ALBUM EXAM

# Rashid Hadee is dedicated

By LAWRENCE WIGGINS  
CONTRIBUTOR

**THE SYLLABUS:** The great thing about underground hip hop is that the music, itself, is pure and in its realest form.

There’s little to no industry influence—influence which often times takes us so far away from the musical intentions of the artists. But, every now and then you come across true artists—DEDICATED artists.

That “dedication” is exhibited in the form of none other than Rashid Hadee. The Chicago native delivers a collective mixture of soulful music that compliments the thought-provoking lyrics on his solo debut album, Dedication.

Hadee showcases his production and lyrical abilities in this fourteen-track project. A

His production is nothing less than soulful. He utilizes the use of classic R&B and soul samples in his music. And it blends perfectly! Some of my favorites on the album are Surrender, Get U Outta My Head, and Missing Pieces.

**RED INK:** As you listen, you may notice that many of the tracks, though they utilize classic, soulful music of the 70s and 80s, sound somewhat repetitive.

The album could have been more appealing had Hadee attempted to be more diverse with his production. Not to say an artist should change his/her message—but there are many different and creative ways to do so.

This is something that I believe Hadee should consider on future projects.



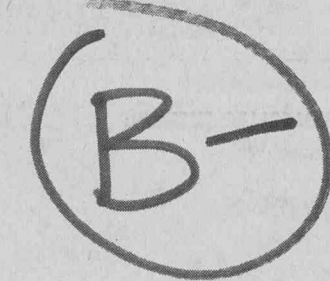
RASHID HADEE  
*Dedication*  
NEBLINA RECORDS

former member of the underground Chicago-based hip hop group Chapter 13, Hadee is no stranger to the music game.

He has worked with several artists such as the Roots, Manuva, Common and Kanye West. Nonetheless, he has a unique style that sends a feel-good vibe to the listener.

**GOLD STARS:** Hadee’s lyrical delivery is that of a veteran MC. It shows that he respects and acknowledges the work of those who pioneered hip hop. He manages to stay true to the traditional form of hip hop while encompassing new and innovative concepts.

**THE GRADE:** Dedication deserves a letter grade of (B-). Great production, thoughtful, heart-driven lyrics, and lots of soul make this album what is. Any lover of the traditional hip hop will feel this album



# Mr. Big Reincarnate

By CANDACE L. HACKNEY  
ASSOCIATE ARTS & LIFE EDITOR

A new school year gives everyone a new start, a chance for re-invention, and the ability to make wrongs right. Summer break, though seemingly short, also allows us to do some self-reflection, experience new things and grow at a rapid rate.

We have the opportunity to expose ourselves to so much, playing into our “forever young” mindset. The best part of it all is the finding the people that make you wish it would all slow down. Almost every young person has experienced at least one or two summer loves. We are thrown in that exhilarating three month spin cycle we call summer break. But what happens when it’s time for school to resume?

Upon every first encounter with the opposite sex I categorize him: friend, father figure/mentor, nothing at all, or my future “Mr. Big.” It’s an inherent quality that I believe is shared by many women. Some women go as far as trying on his last name. We must make sure it’s a good fit, right? It’s the attempt to control fate’s hand in the matter.

I like to believe it’s a simple ratio, which many women

## SEX AND THE GATE CITY

may be au fait, yet with minor variants. Carrie, of the popular HBO series “Sex and the City,” is to Mr. Big as I am to my gentlemen friend, Mr. 90. It’s a code name some of my college girlfriends and I came up with for men that seemingly have it together. Thus, he equates about 90 percent of what we seek in a man.

My Mr. 90 is charismatic, charming, intelligent, attentive, caring, respectful to others, and tolerant. All of that may seem like a lot, but it’s actually quite simple to attain.

Upon the first few encounters with our tall-dark-and-hand-some it’s almost as though there is an illuminating backlight surrounding him. First impressions are everything and it’s accepted that most individuals make an effort to put their best foot forward.

Unfortunately, time usually

reveals his underlying major character flaws, which become exceedingly apparent as we get to know one another better. It seems like after months of playing this game we call dating, the players come to the conclusion that it’s just no fun anymore. So much for my Mr. Big huh? I’m not so sure yet.

Do we, as women, deem every new guy “Mr. Big” before he has proven himself worthy? Relationships should never be “work.”

My advice is to give it all time. It’s important to learn as much about a person before you become wrapped up in the whirlwind of emotions. Summer love should be a sweet entrancement of good times and shared memories.

When it becomes something that one or both individuals are holding on to for dear life, then it’s time to part ways.

# This blank space could be yours.

THE A&T  
REGISTER

Dudley's

## MODEL CALL

When: Wednesday, August 29, 2007  
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Where: Dudley's Beauty Center  
709 East Market Street • Suite 104  
Greensboro, NC 27401

Selected models will receive FREE hair services and products.  
Must be 18 years or older and willing to have hair cut, colored and styled.



Sigma Alpha Lambda

National Leadership and Honors Organization  
with over 70 chapters is seeking motivated students to assist in starting a local chapter.  
3.0 GPA Required  
Contact Rob Miner at rminer@salhonors.org

Collegiate  
Commons  
apt. for \$425 a  
month. Contact  
Philip at  
(301) 873-5093  
for an  
appointment.





PHOTO BY LEROY MIKELL/PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ROB COLEMAN

By MALCOLM S. EUSTACHE  
SPORTS EDITOR

The history is extensive.

Four CIAA championships, six MEAC championships and the second most players in the NFL of any HBCU

But for the past 16 games, the A&T football unit has been a winless one. And, to no ones surprise, the whispers of doubt as to the Aggies ever regaining the prominence they once held as recently as 2003, is gradually growing into an anxious cry.

**QUARTERBACKS:** Leading the Aggies for the second straight season will be sophomore Herbert Miller. Between Miller, and likely backup, redshirt freshman Shelton Morgan, the quarterback squad is an athletic one.

This ability forced defenses to respect Miller's legs last season but those same legs were also the reason for Miller missing the last four games sustaining an unfortunate ACL injury.

Accompanying their athletic blessing, however, is an overall inexperienced unit including redshirt freshman John Hunt III and junior Quizznell Chestnut. This is a green unit with one junior, one sophomore, and two freshmen. The goal for this group will be for them to force opponents to respect the passing game, which may not be too difficult with the strong receiving core.

**COACHES COMMENTS:** "He's [Miller] made tremendous progression," said Head Coach Lee Fobbs Jr.

"He's done well studying the game and the whole purpose of him playing last year was for him to mature, and he's done

that. He's put in the extra time watching film, he understands the offense now, he understands what we want from him and he understands his capabilities of what he can and can't do.

Last year, he took many shots he shouldn't have taken, but now he's a little more mature as far as not taking those shots. He got injured last year, now he knows what we're looking for from him and we've got to keep him healthy."

**RUNNING/FULL BACKS:** Depth. With Michael Ferguson getting shaken up during the first game of the season and still being forced to play the rest of the way, the coaching staff made it clear during the recruiting season that they would need some added help in the backfield.

The Aggies acquired two transfer running backs in Clemson sophomore Demerick Chancellor, and junior David Robinson from the College of Sequoias. The latter of the two was dubbed "Speedy" by age 10, however he has stayed true to that moniker throughout his football career in high school and college.

Both Robinson and Chancellor have an explosive running style that can allow them to break the game open at any given moment. A&T can still rely on senior Chaz Truesdale, as well as sophomore Dion McNair in short yardage situations. And at the fullback position, Ortiz "Trey" Green and Eugene "Tre" Parnell will continue to lead the attack with powerful blocking and reliable short yardage receiving out of the backfield.

With a total of 11 options to lineup behind the quarterback, A&T's running attack is quite

possibly the most versatile component of the team.

**COACHES COMMENTS:** "We have some good tailbacks this year," said offensive coordinator and offensive line coach Kenneth Ray.

"We're going to establish the run. That's really the best thing we got going this year. Last year with Ferg [Ferguson], he got hurt first game against Winston but it was like 'you've to hurry up and get back in there.' This year we've got four or five capable backs that we feel good about. We don't have a starter. Yeah, we have a guy that's going to go out there first, but we got four tailbacks that could all start elsewhere. So, we're basically going to roll them in and keep a fresh one pounding every play, every down."

Ray continued, We want to keep ourselves in third and short where we don't have to drop back and throw the ball all the time. On third and short we want to have the choice of run or pass. That's our goal, do good on first and second down and have our choice on third."

**WIDE RECEIVERS:** If dependability is what the Aggies are looking for, they have not had to worry about that with senior Curtis Walls. He has made receptions in his last 17 games dating back to the 2005 season, and also led the Aggies in receiving yards and receptions.

Senior Michael Caldwell also established himself last season as the deep threat with six catches of 20 yards or more.

This season the Aggies look to institute the physically imposing duo of senior Andre Garth and sophomore Giorgio Lowrance. These two 6-foot-5

and 6-foot-4 receivers also have a tremendous athletic upside.

With the inclusion of 2005 Rookie of the Year Chaz Dawson, and sophomores Cedric Byrd, Vernon White, and Lavonte Kendrick, the A&T receiving core looks to continue as the team's most reliable part.

**PLAYER'S COMMENTS:** "All these guys are ready to play," said quarterback Herbert Miller. "They're willing and they'll sell out for you. You throw a bad ball, they'll make the play, they'll go get the ball. Our receivers are unselfish. So, I'm just really excited about all of them."

**OFFENSIVE LINE:** Though lacking the glitz and glamour of the other positions, this group is the glue of the offensive attack.

The offensive line saw freshmen Enoch Cohen, Jason Valmont, Alex Harper, and Adrian Carter sign on to the squad this year. Chances are these players will be seeing little to no playing time thanks to four returning starters. Led by left guard Desmoine Ware, Coach Ray is depending on the o-line to allow for a lot of third and short situations.

The unit will also see juniors Chad Wiley and Juan Williams, as well as red-shirt junior center Timothy Bess.

**DEFENSIVE LINE:** Coach Fobbs stated an old cliché in college football: Be happy with what you have and what you don't have, don't worry about it.

Well, one thing that the Aggies don't have on defense is size. They plan to make up for that with speed. Besides red-shirt freshman defensive tackle Kelvin Jackson who weighs in at 325 pounds and stands 6

feet 4 inches, there are only 2 other lineman out of 12 that are 300 pounds or over. Considering that fact, new strength and conditioning coach, Cedric Walthaw, has spent countless hours with the entire team in the weight room.

Both defensive ends Joseph Taylor and Antonio Johnson have shown significant improvement in this area. With added help of Philip Sumlin and Jason Broadnax, and returning lineman Tyre Glasper, the d-line is one of the deepest bunches.

**COACHES COMMENTS:** "We've got more speed than last year and that goes back to the weight room," said defensive coordinator Demetrius Adams.

"We've got a guy that's here that's working them hard in the weight room, so we're getting stronger and we'll obviously be more durable throughout the year. We're undersized a little bit which causes us to do some different things, but that's not going to affect the way we do things."

**LINEBACKERS:** This group saw two rookies lead the way. Middle linebacker and Rookie of the Year Andre Thornton, set an A&T record becoming the first freshman to lead the team in tackles last season with 64.

Jamison Hedgepeth led the Aggies in tackles per game as a red-shirt freshman last year. The recruiting season saw the blue and gold welcome needed experience with junior Ole Miss transfer Robert Russell to a relatively young linebacker core.

**COACHES COMMENTS:** "Our whole scheme really allows our kids to be a lot better in the sense that we're moving around a lot more," said Coach Adams.

"We're doing a lot of different things defensively. As a group they've been better. The biggest part about it is having a strength coach. We're getting in the weight room, we're getting stronger and all of that is allowing us to fight off some nagging injuries. And if we can fight off the nagging injuries and stay healthy I think we'll be a pretty good group."

**SECONDARY:** No element of the team saw more transfers come in than the Aggie secondary. That fact alone stresses the importance that the coaching staff saw with addressing their concerns.

Clemson transfer Brandon Croley will serve as an immediate asset being able to play both safety and corner. Junior transfer Ihsan Shaheed hails from the College of Sequoias while sophomore Michael Pace transferred from Hinds Community College in Gulfport, Mississippi. Donald Dorsey, Nick Clement, and Marques Ruffin are all expected to return as starters this season. The increased depth at this position should allow for the Aggies to show some different defensive packages.

**COACHES COMMENTS:** "It boils back down to speed," said Coach Fobbs.

"To be able to put eight or nine, you've got to be able to play man coverage. We were able to attract a couple of junior college kids that can really play man coverage, so we're able to put more people at the line of scrimmage."

Fobbs continued "When you're able to do that, it helps as far as numbers are concerned, and it's an area that's big for us."

# This blank space could be yours.

Writers needed  
jobs@ncatregister.com

THE A&T  
REGISTER



# The State of Aggie Football

By DWIGHT MOORE II  
CONTRIBUTOR

North Carolina A&T University is the home of many things. "The Greensboro Four", one of the most respected engineering programs in the nation and one of the best football programs in all of black college football.

However, over the past few seasons this very proud football program has endured multiple losing seasons that has caused a lot of complaining within the Aggie community among the students, fans, alumni, and supporters.

The constant question of "When is the football team going to win a game?" has become very popular topic throughout campus.

Now I am 21 year old junior from right here in Greensboro. I have spent every fall since 1990 in Aggie Stadium watching, cheering, and loving A&T football. My family and I were at every home game, every classic from Atlanta to Indianapolis, and every big game home or away. So if anyone among the student body has the right to complain about the football team it would probably be me. But I'm not, because I realize no matter how great and proud a football program is there will come a time when they will have to rebuild and that is what Coach Fobbs and his staff are doing.

The reason that so many Aggies are having a hard time dealing with the rebuilding process is because we are not used to "rebuilding" but "reloading" and we became spoil fans who always thought that our football would be great and for good reasons.

From 1990 to 2003 the football team won 111 games to only 49 losses. This run of excellence would include four MEAC titles, three trips to 1-AA playoffs that included the school's first playoff win over the number one team in the nation at the time in Tennessee State that also claimed the school's first and only black national championship during the historic 1999 season, and also an appearance in the 1991 Heritage Bowl in Miami. Names such as James White, Rudy Artis, Connell Maynor, Maseo Bolin, Maurice Hicks, Chris McNeil, Darryl Klugh, Curtis Deloatch, and

"The Blue Death Defense" became apart of Aggie football lore.

However, after the 2003 season the bottom started to fall out from under and you can trace the being of it back to the end of the 2002 season when Bill Hayes was fired as head coach.

That move began a string of very questionable moves by the administration and the athletics department that included a very bad attempt at trying to become a Division I-A football program. Those moves along with poor results under the George Small tenure lead the program to the state that it was in last season.

Usually undermanned against the their opponents last season we went 0-11, a season that we would all like to forget and there is good chance that will happen in coming seasons.

Coach Fobbs and his staff are bringing transfers and recruits to go along with the other players that we already have which allows him to have more man power at his use and more means a more competitive team and that will lead to more wins.

As a person who has followed the A&T football program their entire life I have to say that the last a couple seasons have been very hard. Going 3- 8 two straight years and then going 0-11 has been really hard for the Aggie community to handle because many of us remember when A&T was one of the respected and feared teams in black college football.

But now things are about to change the rebuilding process has began and I hope the MEAC and the rest of the HBCUs enjoyed A&T being down for these last couple of years because now A&T is getting there "swagger" back although you could argue that it hasn't gone anywhere to being with.

It is now time to remind all the HBCUs in the nation why they have always been jealous of us Aggies because "we are A&T and they aren't and every school that isn't A&T is just school wishing that it was".

Because the day will come when once again our players will make us proud and we will be able to stand in the opponents faces and there will be nothing they can do about when we scream the those two words that known are worldwide...  
AGGIE PRIDE!

## Battle of I-40 Preview

### NORTH CAROLINA A&T @ WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY

By DANIEL HENDERSON  
CONTRIBUTOR

After a disappointing 0-11 season, the North Carolina A&T Aggie football team is not worried about the grief suffered from last season.

Now adjusting to new plays and new sets, the Aggies are excited and looking forward to their season opener at Winston-Salem State University this Saturday.

The Aggies fell short last year in Aggie Stadium in the season opener for the Rams' MEAC debut.

They are hoping to redeem themselves this weekend when the Rams host the blue and gold for the first time as a MEAC contender.

"A win will mean a lot for the kids in this program," Head Coach Lee Fobbs stated in his press conference.

The game will also symbolize the first time Fobbs will open a season without an injured player, something that crippled them in 2006-07.

The players believe that the team is more confident than

hopeful this season.

"A win will set the tone for the season," declared linebacker Timothy Shropshire.

#### OFFENSE

The offensive attack will be led by returning starting quarterback Herb Miller. Miller started in the beginning of last season.

He is described by Fobbs to have a running back mentality with a hard-nosed attitude.

Also leading the way are returning starters Curtis Walls (42 receptions, 477 yards, one touchdown) and Michael Ferguson (141 attempts, 631 yards, 4.5 yard per carry, four touchdowns).

The depth of A&T's running game is considerably deeper with the additions of transfers running back David Robinson (College of Sequoias, Miami, FL), and running back Demerrick Chancellor (Clemson University).

#### DEFENSE

"Link up, lock down" is the catch phrase the aggie defense dwells upon.

A&T fans should expect a much more intensified, tougher,

and quicker defense this year.

Leading tackler, linebacker Andre Thornton returns to the field after having an exceptional freshman year (64 tackles, 28 solo, 35 assists, two tackles for a loss, one fumble recovery).

Along with Thornton heading the attack this season will include be linebacker Jamison Hedgepeth (63 tackles, 28 solo, 35 assists, one forced fumble) who also had an outstanding freshman season.

Sack leader defensive end Antonio Johnson (3.0 sacks) returns for his senior year, while the secondary will be headed by sophomore defensive back Donald Dorsey (32 tackles, 22 solo, two defensive breakups).

The Rams look to standstill the Aggie attack with their quality running backs returning in action.

Juniors Brandon McRae and Rod Fluellen, and senior Tionti Powell each rushed for over 350 yards and combined for nine touchdowns last season, and are vital to the Rams rushing attack.

Winston Salem State is also looking forward to the return of senior Jerick Bines who sits

fifth all time on the school's rushing list (2,765 yards), who missed the 2006 season due to academic issues.

Senior quarterback Monte Purvis (1006 total yards, 865 passing yards, 168 rushing yards) will run the offense once again for Winston Salem State this season.

Purvis lead the Rams in total yards last season with 89 of his passing yards received by junior wide receiver Johnathan Kinzer who led the team with eight receptions.

The defense has much to prove after allowing allowing 17.5 points per game and 283.1 yards per game.

Last season the Rams were inexperience youth was evident after traveling to seven road games.

The team looks to make up for the disappointing season with now experienced linebackers Thaddeus Griffith (80 tackles) and Juan Corders (45 tackles) returning in their veteran season.

North Carolina A&T visits Winston Salem State on Saturday 6 p.m.

## Wake Forest still an ACC underdog

By DANIEL HENDERSON  
CONTRIBUTOR

**WINSTON-SALEM** — So much for shedding the underdog label at Wake Forest.

For all the progress the Demon Deacons made last year in winning the Atlantic Coast Conference and reaching the Orange Bowl, they begin their follow-up season in a familiar role: considerable underdogs, picked to lose their opener at Boston College by a touchdown.

But that's just fine for coach Jim Grobe's team.

"We love being the underdog, that's where Wake Forest has been known to be," center Steve Justice said Tuesday.

"That brought us success last year, and that's what we want it to be this year. If we're not the underdog, that's not good for us. We like to go out and show people what we're really made of."

That us-against-the-world mentality helped Wake Forest overcome low expectations a year ago.

The preseason last-place pick in the ACC's Atlantic Division, the Demon Deacons wound up winning a school-record 11 games, shutting out Florida State in Tallahassee, beating Georgia Tech in the conference title game, sneaking into the Bowl Championship Series and finishing at No. 18 nationally.

"I'm so used to being the underdog and upsetting people," receiver Kenny Moore said. "People that think we're not that good, I love to prove them wrong."

The breakout 2006 season also seemed to serve notice that maybe the ACC's balance of power was shifting, and that no longer would the Demon Deacons be the lovable losers of

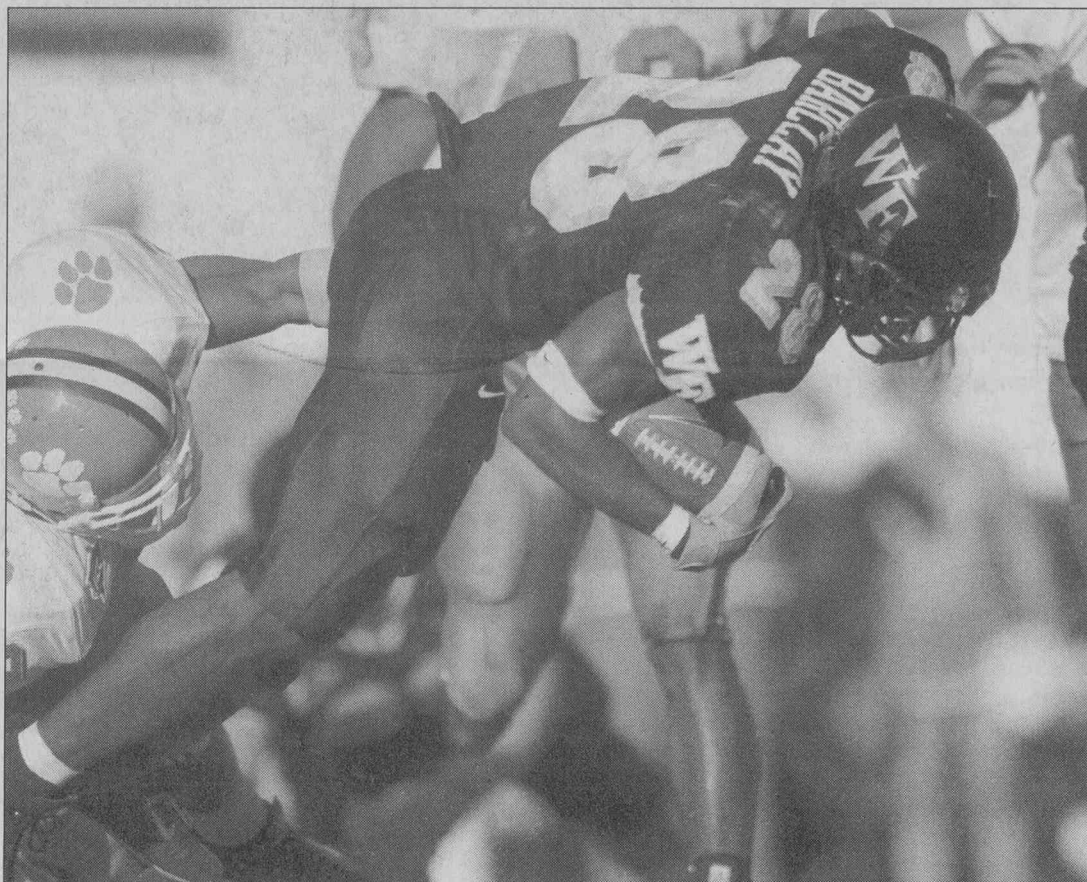


PHOTO BY RICH GLICKSTEIN • THE STATE

**WAKE FOREST FOOTBALL** Perennial underdogs, the Demon Deacons, hope to make their upcoming season just as successful as the previous one. They made it to the Orange Bowl last season.

years past.

Before last year, Wake Forest had never won more than eight games in a season and had played in just six bowls in more than a century of football. The team claimed its only other conference title in 1970.

"We're just a little team with little people," Moore said with a hint of sarcasm. "We'll do what we can to get a little shine and a little love, be mentioned a little bit."

Clearly, Moore and his teammates will have plenty of chances to sway public opinion, and plenty of ground to make up,

once the season starts. Wake Forest began the week as a seven-point underdog to a Boston College team that's breaking in a rookie coach and seven new assistants.

"You look at all the preseason polls, and we're down" in the projections, Justice said. "We kind of expected that. You look at our record and our history. ... You can't expect to come out one year and then change everything. Hopefully, we can come out this year, make another run for it and hopefully change some people's thoughts this year."

They won't have to wait long to find out how far they still have to go. A week after the opener against fellow Atlantic Division foes, the Demon Deacons host No. 20 Nebraska.

"Opening against a team that some people have picked to win the division, I think that maybe they're the best team in the league," Grobe said.

"It's just a really tough job for us, and at the same time there's opportunity. If you go up, play well and are able to sneak away with a win, it could be a great jump start to our season."

## 2007-08 Aggie Basketball Schedule

### NOVEMBER

3	Saturday	Blue & Gold Game	Home
9-11	Fri-Sun	Pittsburgh Tournament	Away
14	Wednesday	Anderson	Home
19	Monday	Montreat	Home
24	Saturday	DePaul	Away
27	Tuesday	Tennessee	Away

### DECEMBER

1	Saturday	Norfolk State	Away
5	Wednesday	Southern Virginia	Home
17	Monday	Missouri	Away
19	Wednesday	Akron	Away
23	Sunday	Miami (FL)	Away
28	Friday	Washington State	Away

### JANUARY

12	Saturday	Morgan State	Home
14	Monday	Coppin State	Home
19	Saturday	UMES	Away
21	Monday	Delaware State	Away
26	Monday	Winston-Salem State	Home
28	Monday	South Carolina State	Home

### FEBRUARY

2	Saturday	Howard	Home
4	Monday	Hampton	Home
9	Saturday	Florida A&M	Away
11	Monday	Bethune-Cookman	Away
16	Saturday	UMES	Home
18	Monday	Delaware State	Home
23	Saturday	Winston-Salem State	Away
25	Monday	South Carolina State	Away

### MARCH

1	Saturday	Howard	Away
3	Monday	Hampton	Away
6	Thursday	Norfolk State	Home
10-15	Mon-Sat	MEAC Tournament	Away

For information check out [www.ncatregister.com](http://www.ncatregister.com)


# LIKE SPORTS? LIKE WRITING? DO BOTH.

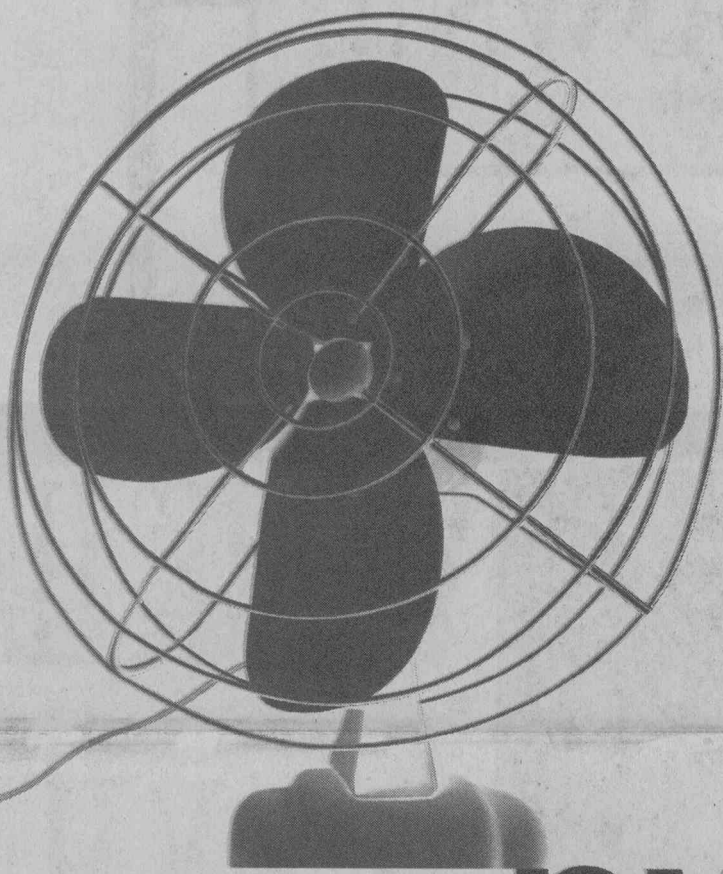
Hit us up...

[jobs@ncatregister.com](mailto:jobs@ncatregister.com)

THE A&T  
REGISTER



PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS 



► Hope conquers sweat.\*

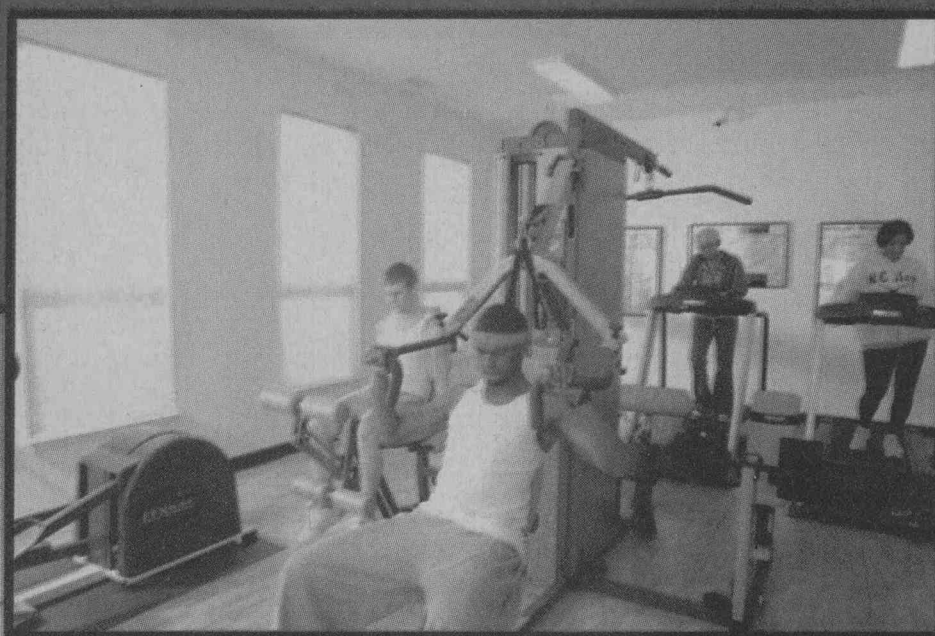
**pwc.tv/ch1**

Project New Orleans now playing on Channel 1.

\*connectedthinking



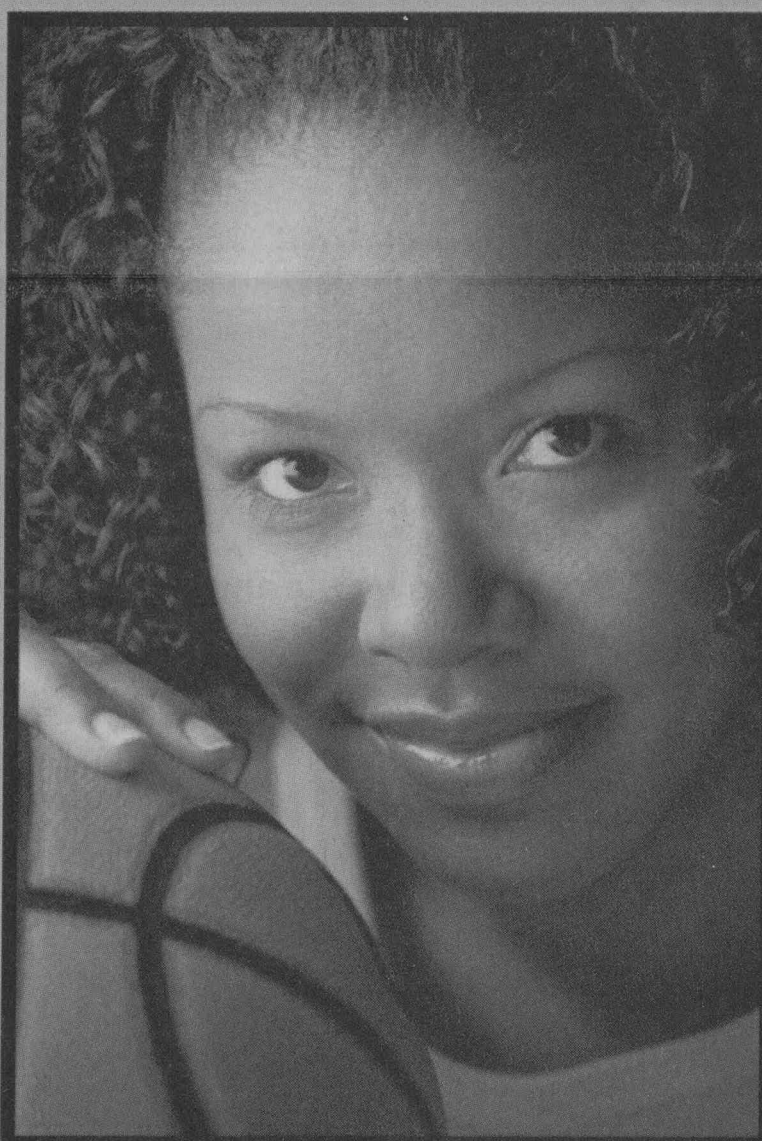
Enter to Win  
an I PHONE!!



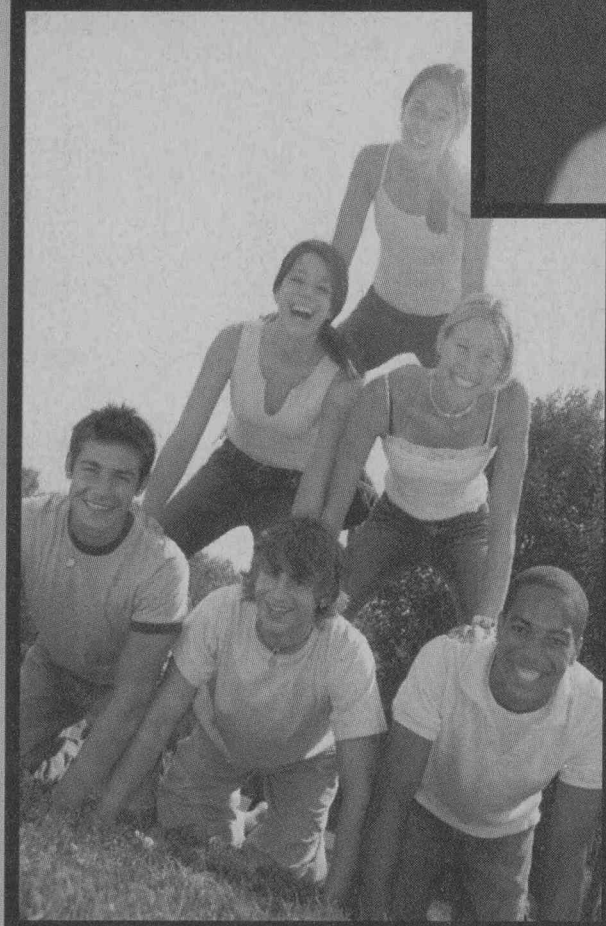
**MOVE IN TODAY!!  
NO MONEY DOWN!!**

**\*\*FOR QUALIFIED APPLICANTS  
EHO.**

\$100 VISA GIFT  
CARD WITH  
EVERY LEASE!



**WORK HARD,  
PLAY HARD!**



**RW**  
**RIVER WALK**  
COTTAGES & SUITES

Call for details 336/272-5014 | [www.riverwalkgso.com](http://www.riverwalkgso.com)